

Justin Timberlake
to make film debut

Pacquiao
has VIP
visitors

**Spain mourns 'Our
September 11'**

**Super pill helps
people quit
smoking**

Sofia Elizalde
on being a mover
and shaker

Security heightened anew in wake of Madrid bombing

By Christian V. Esguerra and Alcuin Papa

THE TERRORIST attacks that struck Madrid, Spain, will top the agenda when senior international police officials from 63 countries meet in Manila next week, but government authorities did not waste time in stepping up security at airports and seaports.

SECURITY / A20

email: feedback@Inquirer.com.ph



Saturday, March 13, 2004 ★★ 68 pages / 9 sections / vol. 19 / no. 96

P18

Cell phone thieves mock Mr. Iron Fist himself

By Norman Bordadora

YOU'D think it was a challenge thrown at Mr. Iron Fist himself.

Thieves made off with the cellular phone of Sen. Panfilo Lacson's lone sen-

CELL PHONE / A20



website: www.inq7.net

Guingona joins FPJ camp

Erap: Take me to death row instead

By Armand N. Nocum
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

ANNOYED by the controversy sparked by his allegedly unauthorized forays outside his detention quarters in Camp Capinpin, Joseph Estrada is challenging his critics to do their worst.

"Tell them to bring me to death row to end this issue and make the civil society groups happy," he said in a phone interview Thursday night. "I can barely sleep these days," he complained, adding that the controversy had caused him "mental torture."

The ousted President also confirmed that on Jan. 1, he again left the military camp in Tanay, Rizal, to visit his mother in San Juan.

"I have permission from the Sandiganbayan to visit my mother," he insisted. "Is that bad? Heavily escorted naman ako."

According to Estrada, the anti-graft court gave him permission because his mother, now 98 years old, was constantly asking about him. "Joseph nang Joseph ang hinahanap," he said.

Asked how his New Year's Day
ERAP / A8



TWO for the road down the path less traveled for independent senatorial candidate Heherson Alvarez and wife Cecile who's had to suspend chemotherapy for breast cancer due to the negative effects on her.

Alvarez takes break to be with ailing wife

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HIS COUNTRY and his wife. He loves them both, wants to serve them both. But for now, senatorial aspirant Heherson "Sonny" Alvarez has to take a leave from one to rush to the other.

In a few days Alvarez will be leaving for the United States with his wife Cecile, who is to undergo medical examination and treatment. But he will be back after a week.

"I am accompanying Cecile to the US for a much needed overdue medical examination as a protocol treatment review after undergoing radical mastectomy and chemotherapy," Alvarez said at a news conference yesterday.

Cecile, with bandages on her arm, and their daughter Xilca were present at the briefing.

Breast cancer forced Cecile
ALVAREZ / A12

VP makes final break with GMA

By Carlito Pablo

BUTUAN CITY—Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. will today make official and final his break with President Macapagal-Arroyo by declaring support for opposition standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr.

Guingona will personally welcome Poe and his Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino national slate this morning in Gingoog City in his wife's home province of Misamis Oriental. He will host a meeting at the family home and hold a joint press conference with the popular movie star.

This was confirmed yesterday in separate interviews here with four senatorial candidates of the KNP—Salvador Escudero, Ernesto Herrera, Ernesto Maceda and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

"Guingona is tired and definitely against the administration because President Macapagal has not been honest not only in dealing with Guingona but also in dealing with the country," Herrera said.

The KNP's success in enlisting Guingona to its side is the highlight of Poe's first campaign sortie in Mindanao and Escudero said this would trigger a bandwagon effect.

He said Guingona's move would have national and international implications.

"Locally, he's been a politician for nearly four decades and quite independent-minded. It has international implications, [Guingona] being the Vice President and

GUINGONA / A9

Poe 'vague' debt plan dulls demand for RP bonds

By Gii C. Cabacungan Jr.

DEMAND for Philippine bonds abroad weakened and bond spreads widened in an apparent knee-jerk reaction to opposition presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr.'s alleged "ambiguous" plan on the country's debts if elected

president in the May elections.

An official of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas who declined to be named blamed Poe's "ambiguous" statement on debt restructuring for the higher spreads on the bonds and for dampening foreign investors' appetite for Philippine bonds during the book

building this week.

But BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura was more circumspect in his assessment. "I would not put all the blame on the statement made about restructuring since there are other major issues, especially the budget deficit," Buenaventura said.

The government was only able to raise \$500 million from the sale of 11-year sovereign bonds out of the targeted \$750 million. It paid 527 basis points over the 11-year Treasury notes or 25 basis points higher than the 512 basis points expected by government officials.

Proceeds of the bond flotation would be used to finance the government's ballooning budget deficit which is expected to soar further this year due to the elections. The opposition has accused President Macapagal-Arroyo of using government funds to fi-

POE / A8

Smelled like New Year, says ferry fire witness

By Leila B. Salaverria

A STEWARD of the SuperFerry 14 testified yesterday that he smelled gunpowder, which he described as similar to that emitted by pyrotechnics on New Year's Eve, in the immediate vicinity of the explosion in the passenger ship that was destroyed by fire on Feb. 27 on Manila Bay.

Alvin Reyes, the first witness called during the second day of hearings of the Board of Marine Inquiry yesterday, said he was in the tourist section showing a lady passenger to Room 203 when he heard a loud explosion and saw a simultaneous flash of bright light.

"Pag labas namin sa lobby, naamoy namin parang bagong taon ba [When we emerged from the lobby, we detected a smell similar to New Year]," Reyes said, bolstering earlier testimony by the ship's captain, Master Ceferino Manzo who said he also detected the smell of gunpowder in the burning ship.

Manzo's testimony tended to support suspicions that the explosion was a terrorist attack.

Reyes described the explosion as being as loud as that made by a

SMELLED / A12



THE SOUTH KOREAN parliament in a free-for-all (left) is a microcosm of the country's political chaos following the impeachment of President Roh Moo-hyun (above), a first in the nation's history. A Constitutional Court will rule in 180 days if Roh who is now suspended must permanently step down. If it does, a new president will be elected.

AFP

S. Korean president impeached, stripped of powers

SEOUL, South Korea—South Korea's parliament impeached President Roh Moo-hyun on charges of illegal electioneering and incompetence yesterday, stripping him of his constitutional powers in an unprecedented vote that followed hours of scuffles and protests.

"I hereby declare that the motion to impeach President Roh Moo-hyun has been approved,"

Speaker Park Kwan-yong said.

It is the first time in South Korea's history that a leader has been impeached.

Prime Minister Goh Kun assumed Roh's presidential duties, including that of military commander in chief. The Constitutional Court must now give final approval to unseat the president. The Constitutional Court has

180 days to rule on whether Roh must permanently step down. If it does, a by-election will choose a new president.

News of the impeachment sent South Korea's stock market plunging and added to the woes of a country grappling with the threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea and a faltering economy.

Goh, the prime minister,

planned to convene a meeting of foreign affairs—and security-related ministers later yesterday, his office said. Finance Minister Lee Hun-jai also called an emergency meeting of senior policymakers.

The impeachment passed by a vote of 193 to 2, well above the 181 votes needed for the measure. Many pro-Roh lawmakers had been forcibly removed from

the chamber by Assembly security

and were unable to vote. A shoving match was sparked earlier when pro-Roh Uri Party members tried to stop Speaker Park from taking the podium, the only place he can call a vote.

Assembly security officers then moved in to begin removing lawmakers trying to block his

S. KOREAN / A20

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/03/13/04

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Boacod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gonzales: Leftist solons funding NPAs

THE NATIONAL Security Adviser yesterday accused leftist lawmakers of spending government development funds to help communist rebels, calling the guerrillas the biggest threat to the country's democracy.

NSA head Norberto Gonzales said three parliamentarians had used about P50 million-P60 million since 2001 to strengthen the communist New People's Army guerrillas.

Despite recently resumed peace talks with the government, the NPA has stepped up attacks nationwide, clashing with government troops three times this week in

fighting that killed at least 11 people.

About 20 rebels disguised as medical workers raided a police station Friday in northern Nueva Ecija province, seizing weapons and taking one officer hostage, police said. There were no casualties.

Gonzales said the lawmakers helping the rebels were Satur Ocampo, Liza Masa and Crispin Beltran, all from the

Bayan Muna party. He said they used "pork barrel" funds—government-allocated money that lawmakers must spend on development projects—for "so-called controlled areas of the NPA."

The lawmakers did not necessarily fund arms purchases, Gonzales said, but financed projects that boosted rebels' presence in communities and at anti-government rallies. He didn't elaborate.

Masa denied the allegation, saying government agencies are in charge of development projects, such as building

schools and roads.

"I challenge Mr. Gonzales to produce evidence," she said. "We used the funds for the service of the people." She said she was also speaking on behalf of the other two legislators.

Gonzales also said the rebels were extorting money from candidates ahead of May 10 national elections, and that candidates were paying them for fear of being assassinated if they didn't. The rebels say it's their right to collect money.

He said the rebels were also intimidat-

ing businesses into giving them money, sometimes transferring the funds abroad.

Gonzales called the NPA "the biggest threat to our democracy," and said the rebels have about 4,000 political leaders. The military estimates they also have about 9,000 armed guerrillas.

Peace talks between the rebels and the government resumed in Oslo, Norway, last month, after a two-year break. Negotiations were expected to resume later this month or in April.

AP

The GSIS Scholarship Program

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is now accepting applications from qualified incoming college students for the GSIS College Scholarship Program for SY 2004-2005.

To qualify under the program, applicants must be legitimate children of active GSIS members and must have a general academic average of 85% or its equivalent.

The following documents, together with the accomplished GSIS Scholarship Program forms, should be submitted to the GSIS Main Office or to the nearest GSIS Branch or District Offices:

- 2 pcs. of passport size picture with signature at the back
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- Certified copy of 4th yr. (3rd Grading) High School Report Card
- Certified copy of their Parent's GSIS policy contract and
- Parent's Certificate of Employment

Qualifiers shall take the GSIS Competitive Examination to be administered by the Center for Educational Measurement.

Scholars can choose from among any of the following 4 or 5-yr. GSIS Priority Courses: Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Business Administration, Computer Science and related IT courses, Economics, Engineering major in Computer, Civil, Electrical & Electronics, Electronics & Communications, Industrial Management and Mechanical only, Finance, Management, Marketing, Mass Communications, Mathematics and Statistics.

For more details, please visit the GSIS Main Office or your nearest GSIS Branch/District Office or contact Emma, Nelda, Meljune and/or Marisa of the GSIS-HRDD Scholarship Staff at Tel. Nos. 551-1878 or 891-6161 locals 4862/4863.

Application deadline: 2 April 2004.



GSIS President and General Manager Winston Garcia

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

The GSIS is strong. Now stronger.

Survey says majority don't know the party-list system

IT'S ROUGHLY nine weeks away from the May 10 national elections but a majority of Filipinos apparently still have no idea of what the party-list system is all about.

Results of a survey released yesterday by pollster Pulse Asia show that 54 percent of registered voters have not heard or read anything about it, against 46 percent who have.

The poll was conducted from Feb. 16 to 20 among 1,800 potential voters.

The party-list system has been implemented in the Philippines since the 1998 elections. It is aimed at giving smaller parties and certain sectors without a political machinery to people of their choices to the House of Representatives.

Although party-list representatives are a minority in a Congress dominated by major political parties and traditional politicians, they can—voting as a bloc—play a pivotal role in closely contested issues, election officials say.

There are 20 party-list representatives in the current House, which has a total of 226 members.

Under the rules, each voter may pick one from among all groups running under the party-list system. Every two percent of total party-list votes gained by a group entitles it to a seat in the House. Each group is allowed only a maximum of three representatives.

"Non-awareness of the party-list system among the majority goes some way towards

explaining why the majority of registered voters (51 percent) failed to vote for any party-list group," Pulse Asia said in its Ulat ng Bayan.

It said awareness of the system is significantly higher among urban dwellers as a whole (51 percent).

In Metro Manila, 65 percent of those polled is aware of the system while in urban Mindanao 51 percent knows about it, the survey showed.

Awareness is also higher—61 percent—among the economically better off classes such as A, B and C.

Among those with some college education, the percentage is 59 percent. It is slightly lower among college graduates—55 percent.

Among workers, 54 percent of government employees and 51 percent of private workers know about the system, Pulse Asia said.

Awareness is distinctly lower—40 percent—in rural areas generally, it added.

Only 38 percent is aware in Southern Luzon while awareness is 38 and 24 percent, respectively, in urban and rural areas in Central/Eastern Visayas.

Gender-wise, only 41 percent of female respondents knows about the system. Among men, awareness is up to 50 percent, the survey said.

Forty-one percent of those in the 55-64 age bracket are aware of the system. Among senior citizens aged 65 and above, awareness is 40 percent.

Da King, Ping told: Learn from Danding-Monching experience

By Carlito Pablo

BUTUAN CITY—Fernando Poe Jr. and Panfilo Lacson should learn from the experience of the late Speaker Ramon Mitra and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., rivals in the 1998 presidential elections.

This advice was given yesterday by Salvador Escudero, who is running for senator under Poe's banner, as he cited his experience in brokering the attempted unification of the Mitra and Cojuangco camps.

Escudero said the two leaders agreed that the one between them who got higher survey ratings would pursue his candidacy while the other gave way. The unification pact failed.

As a result, Escudero said, "both of them lost." The election was won by Fidel V. Ramos.

"The need for victory dictates that the one leading the surveys should (carry the opposition)," he said. "Sacrifices should be made."

Asked if Lacson's withdrawal was the key to Poe's win, Escudero said: "Not really. (But) it will discourage the administration from thinking that cheating is an option."

Senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda said Lacson was only playing hard to get, to strengthen his bargaining position. Another senatorial candidate, Ernesto Herrera, predicted that the Poe and Lacson camps would be unified by the end of March.

Poe's personal campaign manager Sen. Vicente Sotto III earlier said the actor would win handily, whether Lacson withdrew or not.

Yesterday, Sotto put it another way: "Whether there are six, seven or five candidates, we believe that FPJ is going to win."

FPJ's message according to Tito

By Carlito Pablo

BUTUAN CITY—What is Fernando Poe Jr.'s message to the Filipino people?

Something like Christ's every year in Lent, based on the assessment of Poe's personal campaign manager, Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III.

"His message is himself. He is the message. His life is the message," Sotto told reporters here on the second day of the actor's first sortie in Mindanao.

"His platform (of government) is his character. He is kind; he has love for the poor; he is humble," he added.

Sotto raised these points as he reiterated that organizers of two presidential debates should resign themselves to the fact that Poe was not likely to change his mind about not joining.

"Honesty is the best politics," Sotto said to underscore FPJ's certitude that there is nothing to debate about.

Besides, Sotto added, debates are only for those lagging behind in surveys, who have nothing to lose and everything to gain by sharing the same stage with the front runners.

Reminded that presidential debates were routinely held in the United States, Sotto quipped: "But where do we live?"

In Cebu City, Poe's wife, actress Susan Roces, offered a more sober explanation.

The duties of a president did not require engaging in debates, she said. "Senatorial candidates should be the ones invited (to the debates) because that is their type of work. They debate a lot."

Sotto also said Poe was merely following the example set by then presidential candidate Corazon C. Aquino in the 1986 snap elections, and in 1998, by then vice presidential candidate Macapagal-Arroyo.

With a report from Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Feast of DISCOUNTS up to 50-70%
DISCOUNT ON ALL ITEMS
PROMO PERIOD: MARCH 6-31, 2004

KING SIZE BED FRAME W/ 2 NIGHT TABLE
Before: P 129,800
Now P51,920

BOOKSHELF
Before: P 39,800
Now P11,940

DINING TABLE W/ 4 CHAIRS
Before: P 36,800
Now P11,040

WARDROBE
Before: P 88,800
Now P35,520

ENTERTAINMENT RACK
Before: P 65,980
Now P26,392

ROSEWOOD SALA SET 3-1-1 WITH CENTER & SIDE TABLE
Before: P 188,800
Now P56,640

6 SEATER DINING TABLE
Before: P 95,800
Now P38,320

DINING CHAIR
Before: P 15,800 EACH
Now EACH P4,740

LEATHER SALA SET 3-2-1
Before: P 179,800
Now P53,940

SIDE TABLE
Before: P 22,800
Now P6,840

WINE CABINET
Before: P 139,800
Now P55,920

OFFICE TABLE
Before: P 63,800
Now P25,520

FAMOUS FURNITURE WORLD
MEMBER OF THE SMART FURNITURE GROUP
1619 G. ARANETA COR. SGT. RIVERA ST., QUEZON CITY • TEL: 330-25-02, 414-73-01, FAX: 330-25-85

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Gonzales: Leftist solons funding NPAs

THE NATIONAL Security Adviser yesterday accused leftist lawmakers of spending government development funds to help communist rebels, calling the guerrillas the biggest threat to the country's democracy.

NSA said the three parliamentarians, P50 million to strengthen the army's. Despite the government's up attack on the armed forces, fighting that killed at least 11 people. About 20 rebels disguised as medical workers raided a police station Friday in northern Nueva Ecija province, seizing weapons and taking one officer hostage, police said. There were no casualties. Gonzales said the lawmakers helping the rebels were Satur Ocampo, Liza Maza and Crispin Beltran, all from the

Bayan Muna party. He said they used "pork barrel" funds—government-allocated money that lawmakers must spend on development projects—for "so-called controlled areas of the NPA."

The lawmakers did not necessarily fund arms purchases, Gonzales said, but financed projects that boosted rebels' presence in communities and at anti-government rallies. He didn't elaborate.

Maza denied the allegation, saying government agencies are in charge of development projects, such as building

schools and roads.

"I challenge Mr. Gonzales to produce evidence," she said. "We used the funds for the service of the people." She said she was also speaking on behalf of the other two legislators.

Gonzales also said the rebels were extorting money from candidates ahead of May 10 national elections, and that candidates were paying them for fear of being assassinated if they didn't. The rebels say it's their right to collect money.

He said the rebels were also intimidat-

ing businesses into giving them money, sometimes transferring the funds abroad.

Gonzales called the NPA "the biggest threat to our democracy," and said the rebels have about 4,000 political leaders. The military estimates they also have about 9,000 armed guerrillas.

Peace talks between the rebels and the government resumed in Oslo, Norway, last month, after a two-year break. Negotiations were expected to resume later this month or in April.

AP

The GSIS Scholarship Program

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is now accepting applications from qualified incoming college students for the GSIS College Scholarship Program for SY 2004-2005.

To qualify under the program, applicants must be legitimate children of active GSIS members and must have a general academic average of 85% or its equivalent.

The following documents, together with the accomplished GSIS Scholarship Program forms, should be submitted to the GSIS Main Office or to the nearest GSIS Branch or District Offices:

- 2 pcs. of passport size picture with signature at the back
- Certified copy of Birth Certificate
- Certified copy of 4th yr. (3rd Grading) High School Report Card
- Certified copy of their Parent's GSIS policy contract and
- Parent's Certificate of Employment

Qualifiers shall take the GSIS Competitive Examination to be administered by the Center for Educational Measurement.

Scholars can choose from among any of the following 4 or 5-yr. GSIS Priority Courses: Accountancy, Actuarial Science, Business Administration, Computer Science and related IT courses, Economics, Engineering major in Computer, Civil, Electrical & Electronics, Electronics & Communications, Industrial, Management and Mechanical only, Finance, Management, Marketing, Mass Communications, Mathematics and Statistics.

For more details, please visit the GSIS Main Office or your nearest GSIS Branch/District Office or contact Emma, Neida, Meljune and/or Marisa of the GSIS-HRDD Scholarship Staff at Tel. Nos. 551-1878 or 891-6161 locals 4862/4863.

Application deadline: 2 April 2004.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
The GSIS is strong. Now stronger

Survey says majority don't know the party-list system

IT'S ROUGHLY nine weeks away from the May 10 national elections but a majority of Filipinos apparently still have no idea of what the party-list system is all about.

Results of a survey released yesterday by pollster Pulse Asia show that 54 percent of registered voters have not heard or read anything about it, against 46 percent who have.

The poll was conducted from Feb. 16 to 20 among 1,800 potential voters.

The party-list system has been implemented in the Philippines since the 1998 elections. It is aimed at giving smaller parties and certain sectors without a political machinery to people of their choices to the House of Representatives.

Although party-list representatives are a minority in a Congress dominated by major political parties and traditional politicians, they can—voting as a bloc—play a pivotal role in closely contested issues, election officials say.

There are 20 party-list representatives in the current House, which has a total of 226 members.

Under the rules, each voter may pick one from among all groups running under the party-list system. Every two percent of total party-list votes gained by a group entitles it to a seat in the House. Each group is allowed only a maximum of three representatives.

"Non-awareness of the party-list system among the majority goes some way towards

explaining why the majority of registered voters (51 percent) failed to vote for any party-list group," Pulse Asia said in its Ulat ng Bayan.

It said awareness of the system is significantly higher among urban dwellers as a whole (51 percent).

In Metro Manila, 65 percent of those polled is aware of the system while in urban Mindanao 51 percent knows about it, the survey showed.

Awareness is also higher—61 percent—among the economically better off classes such as A, B and C.

Among those with some college education, the percentage is 59 percent. It is slightly lower among college graduates—55 percent.

Among workers, 54 percent of government employees and 51 percent of private workers know about the system, Pulse Asia said.

Awareness is distinctly lower—40 percent—in rural areas generally, it added.

Only 38 percent is aware in Southern Luzon while awareness is 38 and 24 percent, respectively, in urban and rural areas in Central/Eastern Visayas.

Gender-wise, only 41 percent of female respondents knows about the system. Among men, awareness is up to 50 percent, the survey said.

Forty-one percent of those in the 55-64 age bracket are aware of the system. Among senior citizens aged 65 and above, awareness is 40 percent.

Da King, Ping told: Learn from Danding-Monching experience

By Carlito Pablo

BUTUAN CITY Fernando Poe Jr. and Panfilo Lacson should learn from the experience of the late Speaker Ramo Mitra and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. rivals in the 1998 presidential elections.

This advice given yesterday by Salvador Escudero, who is running for senator under Poe's banner, as he cited his experience in brokering the attempted unification of the Mitra and Cojuangco camps.

Escudero said the two leaders agreed that the one between them who got higher survey ratings would pursue his candidacy while the other gave way. The unification pact failed.

As a result, Escudero said, "both of them lost." The election was won by Fidel V. Ramos.

"The need for victory dictates that the one leading the surveys should carry the opposition," he said. "Sacrifices should be made."

Asked if Lacson's withdrawal was the key to Poe's win, Escudero said: "Not really. (But) it will discourage the administration from thinking that cheating is an option."

Senatorial candidate Ernesto Maceda said Lacson was only playing hard to get, to strengthen his bargaining position. Another senatorial candidate, Ernesto Herrera, predicted that the Poe and Lacson camps would be unified by the end of March.

Poe's personal campaign manager Sen. Vicente Sotto III earlier said the actor would win handily, whether Lacson withdrew or not.

Yesterday, Sotto put it another way: "Whether there are six, seven or five candidates, we believe that FPJ is going to win."

FPJ's message according to Tito

By Carlito Pablo

BUTUAN CITY What is Fernando Poe Jr.'s message to the Filipino people?

Something like Christ's every year, in Lent, based on the assessment of Poe's personal campaign manager, Sen. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III.

"His message is himself. He is the message. His life is the message," Sotto told reporters here on the second day of the actor's last sortie in Mindanao.

"His platform (of government) is his character. He is kind, he has love for the poor, humble," he added.

Sotto raised these points as he reiterated that organizers of two presidential debates should resign themselves to the fact that Poe was not likely to change his mind about not joining.

"Honesty is the best politics," Sotto said to underscore FPJ's certitude that there is nothing to debate about.

Besides, Sotto added, debates are only for those lagging behind in surveys who have nothing to lose and everything to gain by sharing the same stage with the front runners.

Reminded that presidential debates were routinely held in the United States, Sotto quipped: "But where do we have them?"

In fact, Poe's wife, actress Imelda Staunton, did not even attend the first debate.

The debate, and "Senator... late should be the ones invited to the debates because that is the type of work they debate a lot."

Sotto also said Poe was merely following an example set by then pre-dentist candidate Corason Aquino in the 1986 snap elections and in 1998, by then vice presidential and later Vice President Arroyo.

With a report from Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Feast of DISCOUNTS

UP TO 50-70% DISCOUNT ON ALL ITEMS FROM FEBRUARY 13-14, 2004

KING SIZE BED FRAME W/ 2 NIGHT TABLE
Before P 129,800
Now P51,920

LEATHER SALA SET 3-2-1
Before P 179,800
Now P53,940

6 SEATER DINING TABLE
Before P 95,800
Now P38,320

DINING CHAIR
Before P 15,800 EACH
Now P4,740

WINE CABINET
Before P 139,800
Now P55,920

SIDE TABLE
Before P 22,800
Now P6,840

OFFICE TABLE
Before P 61,800
Now P25,520

ROSEWOOD SALA SET 3-1-1 WITH CENTER & SIDE TABLE
Before P 188,800
Now P56,640

ENTERTAINMENT RACK
Before P 65,980
Now P26,392

WARDROBE
Before P 88,800
Now P35,520

DINING TABLE W/ 4 CHAIRS
Before P 36,800
Now P11,040

BOOKSHELF
Before P 39,800
Now P11,940

FAMOUS FURNITURE WORLD
1619 G. ARANETA COR. SGT. RIVERA ST., QUEZON CITY • TEL. 330-25-02, 414-73-01, FAX. 330-25-85

First overseas voter is seaman in Brunei

By Jerome Aning

PHILIPPINE embassies and consulates around the world opened yesterday to receive seamen casting their absentee votes for president, vice president, 12 senators and party-list representative.

A Filipino seaman in Brunei was the first to cast his vote, followed by another in Berlin, Germany, Department of Foreign Affairs' Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat deputy chair Catherine Maceda said in an interview yesterday with cable TV station ANC.

Some 2,300 seafarers who registered as absentee voters have two months to cast their votes in precincts in Philippine diplomatic offices in about 70 countries and territories.

Voting centers in Agana, Guam, Saipan in the Northern Marianas, and Canberra and Sydney in Australia, were the first to open yesterday. The last polling station to open was in Honolulu, Hawaii.

DFA Secretary Delia Albert said Philippine diplomatic posts around the world made the announcement in newspapers, as well as in their websites, informing Filipinos of the venues, dates and time schedules during which they could cast their votes.

DFA spokesperson Julia Heidemann said that because of the long voting period, she expects voters to trickle in the voting centers.

The department is anticipating problems for seafarers who may not make it to the

polling centers they specified as where they would vote when they registered last year. This could be caused by arrival delays, or destination changes of the ships where Filipinos are working. If this is the case, the absentee voter could request that his ballot be sent to the polling center of the new country where he would be casting his vote.

According to the Commission on Elections, there are about 360,000 overseas absentee voters. The land-based voters will begin casting their votes on April 11. Mail-voting is allowed for land-based voters in three countries: Canada, the United Kingdom and Japan.

The DFA and the Comelec reminded all overseas Filipino voters to check if their names were included in the certified list of absentee voters posted at the Comelec website (www.comelec.gov.ph) before heading off to the voting precincts.

55%
less for 5 European destinations*.
Only with Cathay Pacific.

Now you're really flying.

* Paris, London, Rome, Frankfurt and Amsterdam via Hong Kong from March 16 to May 31, 2004. Valid in GMA only. Call Cathay Pacific at 7370888 or your travel agent. All terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.



www.cathaypacific.com

CATHAY PACIFIC

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0307, Series of 2004

GMA names 18 new justices to CA, 30 prosecutors

By Philip C. Tubeza

WHILE she dillydallied on the appointment of a new justice to the Supreme Court, President Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed 18 new justices to the Court of Appeals and around 30 new prosecutors before the election ban on appointments took effect on Thursday.

Among the new CA appointees were former election commissioner Teresita Dy-Liacco Flores.

The Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel informed SC Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. in a letter dated May 10 that the President appointed the new CA justices on March 9.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno confirmed the appointment of the new prosecutors at the Department of Justice.

The Palace, however, remained mum on the controversial appointment of Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario to the Supreme Court. Nazario was supposed to replace Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo who retired in November last year.

SC Clerk of Court Luzviminda Puno said as of press time yesterday that the Judicial and Bar Council still has yet to receive any official communication from Malacañang about the SC vacancy.

Aside from Flores, who served at the Commission on Elections from February 1995 to February 2002, the other CA appointees were Isias P. Dicedican, Santiago J. Ranada, Jr., Arcangelita Lontok, Lucenito Tagle, Japar Dimampao, Celia Librea-Leagogo, Monina Arevalo-Zenarosa, Pampio A. Abarintos, Estela Perlas-Bernabe, Mariflor Castillo, Arturo Tayag, Sesinando D. Villon, Vicente L. Yap, Ramon M. Bato Jr., Romulo V. Borja, Edgardo A. Camello, and Rodrigo Lim Jr.

The new CA justices were all former judges of regional trial courts.

With the new appointees, the CA now has 69 justices. Under Republic Act 8246, which became law in 1996, the number of CA divisions were increased from 17 to 23.

The six new divisions will open in Cebu and Cagayan De Oro, with each city having three divisions manned by nine justices.

Political ads invade the Web

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—How much money can a political candidate save by advertising on the Internet?

Quite a lot, since Internet-based firms are charging a measly P2,000 for 45 days in newly-constructed campaign websites, the INQUIRER learned.

This disturbs the Commission on Elections because the Internet remains an unregulated medium, said lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec regional director.

Gerry Mayona, proprietor of the website www.Baguiocity.com, said he started offering national and local parties a P2,000 cover charge to "host" their party platforms after Comelec Manila director Ferdinand Rafanan confirmed that the Internet remained an election gray area. Rafanan handles public relations issues.

Several other web firms have followed suit, according to Mayona.

"I started with local candidates," he said, "but soon realized that even national candidates might be (interested in local exposure), especially since Filipinos abroad who are also voting habitually turn to the webpages of their hometowns."

ACE BUILDERS CENTER
Home Improvement & Building Supplies
now open

SM City PAMPANGA

Life is an ongoing project. **ACE** The helpful place.

paint & decorating	outdoor living	plumbing	electricals	home organization	home safety	home basics	power tools	car care

SM SOUTH MALL • SM MEGAMALL • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY MANILA • SM SUCAT • FESTIVAL MALL • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY BACOR • SM CITY BLOKO • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM CITY ORTIG • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY BACUTAN • SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUO • SM CITY MARILAO • GREENBELT 1

Congratulations to the St. Paul University System on its Accreditation by the Commission on Higher Education March 10, 2004



St. Paul University Philippines
Tuguegarao City
1907



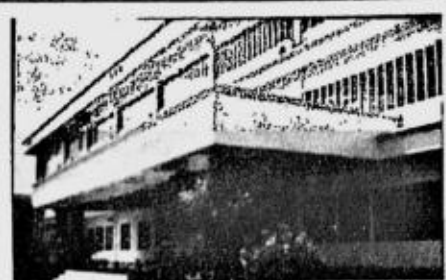
St. Paul University Dumaguete
1904



St. Paul University Iloilo
1911



St. Paul University Manila
1912



St. Paul University Surigao
1926



St. Paul University Quezon City
1946

VISION-MISSION STATEMENT

The St. Paul University System
is a network of Paulinian educational institutions
bound by its commitment
to form Christ-centered, integrated, and competent persons
in the service of the Church and society.

Through collaboration, complementation and resource-sharing,
the System ensures the delivery of quality programs and services
by its members, thus
affirming its leadership role in education for social transformation.

Messages



Sr. Mary Magdalen Torres, SPC

Sr. Mary Magdalen Torres, SPC
Provincial Superior
St. Paul of Chartres

Teamwork and collaboration are not only the call of the day in education in order to strengthen systems, policies, structures and programs; thus, bringing about effective delivery and optimal use of resources, but also the more resonant call of our Culture of the New Springtime in our province, as our response to the varied challenges of our apostolate in the New Millennium, especially because we are about to celebrate our centennial anniversary as a congregation in the Philippines.

It is true that integrative and collaborative effort and attitude bring about holistic information and formation, and this is what education is for. But let our Paulinian education make a marked difference to build more people by going beyond the frontiers and frontline, not in the spirit of competition but how we regard and value those inside of us and among us, how we care, connect and respect all people knowing fully well that they are our best assets, and they reflect who we are.

In humility and joy, therefore, let us rejoice, because an invaluable privilege and responsibility is in our hands. Let us grasp the enhanced opportunities for evangelization, the end of all personal and professional development, our *raison d'être* as a congregation, as a CATHOLIC EDUCATIONAL institution.



Nilo L. Rosas

NILO L. ROSAS
President
Philippine Normal University

Chairman
SPUS-CHED Evaluation Committee

The St. Paul University System, the first ever duly recognized university system in the Philippines, I hope, will serve as an instrument to enable us to overcome the fragmentation, inequality and inefficiency which are the frailties of the past, and create a learning community which releases the creative and intellectual energies of our people towards meeting the goals of reconstruction and development for a stronger nation.

I look forward to witnessing the St. Paul University System spearhead the initiatives towards making higher education system redress past inequalities, serve a new better social order, meet pressing national needs and respond to new realities and opportunities.

Truly, the journey is no easy task; this quantum leap in the achievements of Paulinian education ministry brings about greater expectations among the vast majority of our education partners. However, if we collectively commit ourselves to completing it, we will reach our goal: *education that contributes to the building of a better life for all.*



Dipl.-Ing. Uwe Roessiger
Managing Director
TUV Rheinland Philippines

We take pride in your success in strengthening systems, policies, structures, and programs for the effective delivery of quality education and services through collaboration, complementation, and resource-sharing. Your wealth of accomplishments not only highlights your excellence in the field of Higher Education but also demonstrates your adherence to an effective Quality Management System and commitment to the highest level of Quality Standards.

We fully support and are proud to take part in your noblest intention of providing the Highest Quality Education in all St. Paul Universities throughout the country.

16.6-M kids immunized vs measles: 90% of target

By Blanche S. Rivera

WITH AN average of 691,000 children immunized against measles daily for the past month, the Department of Health achieved 90 percent of its 18-million target.

Around 16.5 million children below eight years old received measles vaccines all over the country during the DOH's 24-day Ligas Tigdas 2004 campaign, the DOH announced yesterday.

Dr. Koji Sasaki, a representative of the Japanese government, which donated \$7.8 million worth of vaccines and medical supplies to the campaign, lauded the "very high accomplishment (achieved) in very short time."

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit, however, said that while every vaccinated child was a success, every missed kid was a failure. He said the DOH wants to hit at least 95 percent of the target.

The DOH is going to do mop-up operations until March 31 to find the untreated children and give them measles immunization and vitamin A. Some 12.4 million kids have also received vitamin A drops during the campaign.

60%

off for the North American experience[®]
Only with Cathay Pacific.

Now you're really flying.

CATHAY PACIFIC

* Los Angeles, San Francisco and Vancouver via Hong Kong from March 16 to May 31, 2004. Valid in GMA only. Call Cathay Pacific at 7570888 or your travel agent. All terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.

www.cathaypacific.com

Per D11-NCR Permit No. 0407, Series of 2004

SHARP be sharp

CLEAN AIR BULLETIN

INDOOR AIR VIRUSES MAY CAUSE COMMON ILLNESSES

PLASMACLUSTER TECHNOLOGY can protect you from sicknesses.

Studies show that indoor air can actually be two to five times worse than the air outside. In extreme scenarios, it can even be 1000 times dirtier. This is a very scary fact. Especially because at the average, people stay indoors 90 percent of the time. We believe that staying in is the best way to protect ourselves from disease-causing viruses outside, but this is not the case.

Air pollution is not limited to the thick, black smoke that cars, factories, and trash burning emit.

Inside our homes are minuscule dust mites, molds, bacteria and some of the most common viruses.

Alarmingly, we breathe them in. Some may cause allergies, common colds and even asthma. Air conditioners and filters seemingly give us fresher air. But the truth is that most of these machines do not remove the molds and bacteria present around us. This is the reason why we still get sick even if we stay indoors most of the time.

A unique technology makes good use of this natural phenomenon. By utilizing the negatively charged ions in the air, it is able to clear up the air and get rid of the contaminants present. The Sharp Plasmacluster Air-conditioner uses plasma to generate positive and negative ions surrounded by large numbers of water molecules. These are then released in large quantities into the air. The positive and negative ions, which are surrounded by water molecules, form cluster ions. These cluster ions drift about in the air and collide with mold, bacteria and other odor-causing molecules.

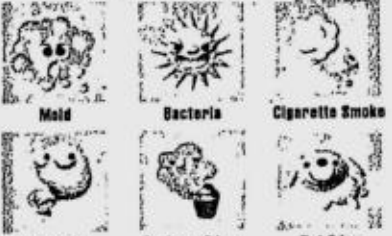
This process renders dangerous contaminants inactive. And what remains in the air are harmless molecules. It gets rid of molds, bacteria, dust mites and even unwanted odors from pets or trash. It tackles the culprits head-on, hunting for them even in the most obscure corners. The Sharp Plasmacluster Air-conditioner produces a shower of ions that is capable of reaching even stagnant air.

It reduces your chances of getting common colds, allergies and asthma when you're indoors.

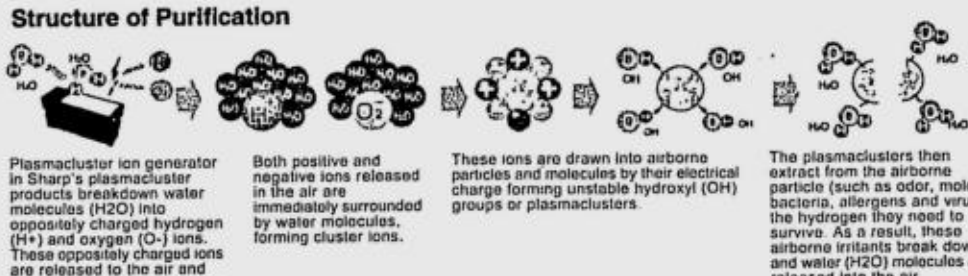
WHAT'S NEW?	
SHARP PLASMACLUSTER	OTHERS
Sharp Plasmacluster method releases positive and negative ions into the air which decompose and deactivate harmful airborne substances by chemical reaction.	Other aircons have ionizers that release negative ions only. Negative ions do not decompose/deactivate harmful substances. It only activates cells by normalizing disrupted ion balances.
 POSITIVE & NEGATIVE ions Eliminate Germs Effectively	
Without Plasmacluster Ion [®]	With Plasmacluster Ion [®]
	
A demonstration of how the Sharp Plasmacluster prevents growth of molds.	

Positive and Negative ions inactivate harmful airborne substances

Effective Against...



Structure of Purification



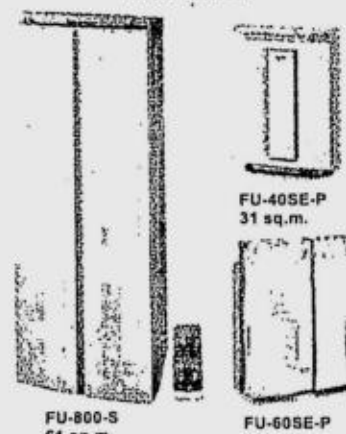
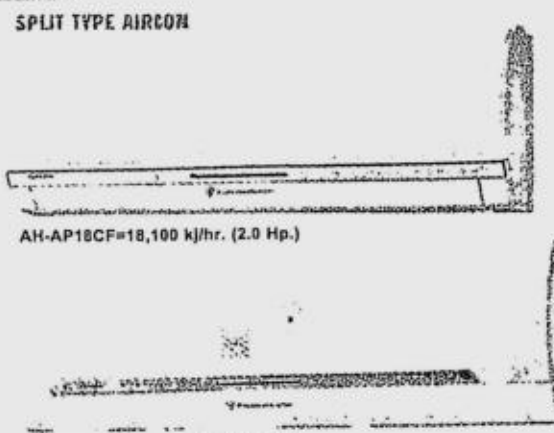
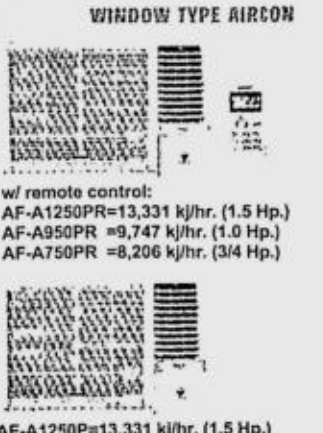
Plasmacluster ion generator in Sharp's plasmacluster products breakdown water molecules (H₂O) into oppositely charged hydrogen (H⁺) and oxygen (O⁻) ions. These oppositely charged ions are released to the air and spread throughout the room.

Both positive and negative ions released in the air are immediately surrounded by water molecules, forming cluster ions.

These ions are drawn into airborne particles and molecules by their electrical charge forming unstable hydroxyl (OH) groups or plasmaclusters.

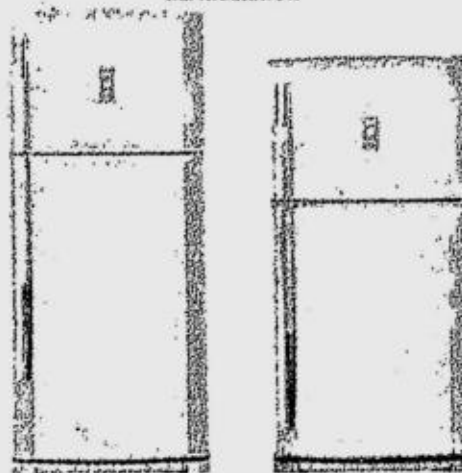
The plasmaclusters then extract from the airborne particles (such as odor, molds, bacteria, allergens and virus) the hydrogen they need to survive. As a result, these airborne irritants break down and water (H₂O) molecules are released into the air.

PLASMACLUSTER FOR INDOOR AIR

AIR PURIFIER	SPLIT TYPE AIRCON	WINDOW TYPE AIRCON
 FU-40SE-P 31 sq.m. FU-800-S 61 sq.m. FU-60SE-P 46 sq.m.	 AH-AP18CF=18,100 kJ/hr. (2.0 Hp.) AH-AP12CF=12,600 kJ/hr. (1.5 Hp.) AH-AP09CF=9,600 kJ/hr. (1.0 Hp.)	 w/ remote control: AF-A1250PR=13,331 kJ/hr. (1.5 Hp.) AF-A950PR=9,747 kJ/hr. (1.0 Hp.) AF-A750PR=8,206 kJ/hr. (3/4 Hp.) AF-A1250P=13,331 kJ/hr. (1.5 Hp.) AF-A950P=9,747 kJ/hr. (1.0 Hp.) AF-A750P=8,206 kJ/hr. (3/4 Hp.)

PLASMACLUSTER FOR FOOD

REFRIGERATOR



SJ-P08M=594 liters (20 cu. ft.) Available in Silver/Gold
SJ-P58M=508 liters (18 cu. ft.) Available in Silver/Gold

Plasmacluster mechanism was proven effective by the following institutions:

 BRITAIN British Allergy Foundation	 GERMANY Fraunhofer Institute	 GERMANY Universitätsklinikum Lubeck
 JAPAN Ishikawa Prefecture Preventive Medicine Association	 JAPAN Kitasato Research Center of Environmental Science	 CHINA Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control & Prevention

Ion

Plasmacluster

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

mercury drug
NAKARIBURO DAWOT AY LARING BAGO

SABADO SEVEN-DAY SPECIAL!

March 13 to 19, 2004

For other promos, pls. visit our website at:
www.mercurydrug.com
e-mail: info@mercurydrug.com

	PEDCEE DRP 100MG/ML 30ML PAY ONLY 92.50 REG PRICE P 97.50
	IMMUVIT CAP PAY ONLY 19.00 REG PRICE P 20.00
	TROSYD CR 1% 3.5 G PAY ONLY 60.75 REG PRICE P 76.00
	LISTERINE ORIG • 80 ML PAY ONLY 44.00 REG PRICE P 48.00
	LISTERINE ORIG • 250 ML PAY ONLY 108.50 REG PRICE P 117.50
	LISTERINE ORIG • 500 ML PAY ONLY 199.00 REG PRICE P 216.50
	LISTERINE ORIG • 750 ML PAY ONLY 256.00 REG PRICE P 278.50
	VISINE EYE DROPS • 6 ML PAY ONLY 42.25 REG PRICE P 46.00
	VISINE EYE DROPS • 10 ML PAY ONLY 52.25 REG PRICE P 57.00
	VISINE EYE DROPS • 15 ML PAY ONLY 62.50 REG PRICE P 68.00
	VISINE COOL EYE DRP 10 ML PAY ONLY 59.75 REG PRICE P 65.00
	JOHNSON BB PDR LAV&CHAM • 200 G PAY ONLY 43.00 REG PRICE P 45.50
	JOHNSON BB PDR LAV&CHAM • 300 G PAY ONLY 57.50 REG PRICE P 60.75
	MILO REF PCK 300G PAY ONLY 41.00 REG PRICE P 42.75
	MILO REF PCK 600G PAY ONLY 79.75 REG PRICE P 83.50
	MILO REF PCK 1000 G PAY ONLY 128.75 REG PRICE P 134.25

PER DOH SFAD PERMIT NO. 0168 S. 2004

Bro. Eddie proposes taxing Church

Palace clears Braganza in overspending case

By Blanche S. Rivera

"GIVE to Caesar what is Caesar's, and give to God what is God's."

With this passage from the Bible, evangelist and presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva yesterday proposed taxing church property to ensure that the government would gain from church assets that are not serving spiritual purposes.

Villanueva, standard-bearer of the fledgling party Bangon Pilipinas Movement for National Renewal, said he would not exempt church assets from taxation because some of these are being used to make "profits for personal use."

"I am in favor of taxing church properties being used to make profits, if the profits go to private individuals," he said when asked if he was willing to lose tax exemption of the Jesus Is Lord Church Worldwide if he becomes president.

Villanueva, however, did not mention which religious groups were using declared church assets for the personal advancement of its leaders or members.

He said he would maintain the tax exemption of those properties that are being used to promote church teachings and programs. Again, he defended his candidacy as legal and that it did not violate the constitutional separation of Church and State.

By Armand N. Nocum

AFTER clearing former Justice Hernando "Nani" Perez of graft, Malacañang's Committee of Peers (COP) this time absolved former Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza from charges that he overspent P50 million for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program anniversary celebration in 2002.

Last month, the COP also overturned a Presidential Anti-Graft Commission (PAGC) decision finding Perez guilty for trying to cover up a multimillion bribe he allegedly accepted from former Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez.

In Braganza's case, the COP said there is no evidence of alleged "overspending" and "extravagance." It added that the PAGC, by charging Braganza, also usurped the powers of the Commission on Audit (COA).

"Thus, the administrative complaint filed against the respondent

for fiscal mismanagement and extravagance should be dismissed for lack of merit," the COP said in its March 2 order, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

The order was signed by Joe Nathan Tenebrancia, COP chair, and members Emilia Boncodin and Romulo Neri. Executive Secretary Alberto Romulo adopted and affirmed the COP ruling last March 9.

The decision came more than a year after the DAR Employees Association (Darea) filed an administrative charge against Braganza in Aug. 12, 2002. The employees said Braganza violated various anti-graft and anti-corruption laws when he allegedly "spent a staggering sum of P50,765,057.90 for the CARP anniversary alone."

The funds were allegedly spent on several DAR seminars held at the Fontana Resort in Clark Field, Pangasinana and other expensive resorts and hotels for the CARP anniversary.

Dr. Marietta M. Isip; 62

DR. MARIETTA Mendoza Isip died yesterday, March 12, 2004. She was 62. She is survived by her husband, Maning; children Bong and Chingky, Angel, Bonjay and Ed, Marynell and Bong, Chin,

Neng and Petcha. Her body lies at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City. Funeral services will be held today, Saturday, and Sunday, at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.



IAU Asia's Biggest Catholic Centered Aerospace University

is proud of our graduates who are now employed in foreign airlines, resort hotels and international airports as Commercial Pilots, Flight Stewardess, Tourism Managers, Airport Managers and Airport Customs Brokers.



To decongest Metro Manila, former MMDA Chairman now COMELEC Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos Sr. assisted by Dr. Jovenal B. Toring, IAU President Inaugurated the 6-Hectare IAU Educational Mini-Airport. The project is IAU's trust to provide quality education. This US Federal Aviation approved project is very useful to foreign and local students studying BS in Flying, BS in Aerospace Engineering, BS in Airline Mgt., BS in Aircraft Maintenance Tech. and BS in Criminology, major in Aviation and Airport Security. The IAU Mgt., also allows other Metro Manila Schools to use the said Mini-Airport for educational purposes in order to encourage other schools to transfer outside Metro Manila in line with the school's dispersal program of Pres. Arroyo as one way of building a strong Republic.

RICARDO CARDINAL J. VIDAL Scholarship Program



Enrollment Going On

Entrance Exam for Scholarship and Non-Scholarship Program School Year 2004-2005 is from Monday to Saturday, 8 am to 5 pm. We advise new enrollees to see for themselves our training aircraft, the 6-hectare Mactan school campus before enrolling on the ff. courses:

- BS in Aviation Technology major in Flying
- BS in Aerospace Engineering
- BS in Aircraft Maintenance Tech.
- BS in Tourism and Travel Management
- BS in Computer Science
- BS in Customs Administration
- BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management
- BS in Criminology major in Aviation and Airport Security
- BS in Airline Management (Including Flight Stewarding Course)
- BS in Marine Engineering
- BS in Marine Transportation

To help decongest Metro Manila, students enrolling at IAU Teachers College (BEED, BSED) Indiana Maritime School (affiliated with PMMA) and Indiana Catholic High School, Elementary and Grade School education will enjoy education incentives plus employment opportunities after graduation. Students who wish to avail of the program must get in touch with:



SCHOOL SITE:
IAU Town Center, Basak Area, Island of Mactan
Cebu, Philippines
Mobile Nos. 0917-3288987 • 0919-2637755
(24 Hours on call, strictly no text)

ALABANG EXECUTIVE OFFICE:
Tito Jovy Tower, Buencamino St., Alabang
City of Muntinlupa
Tel. Nos. (02) 809-4603 • 809-4597
e-mail: indiana@col.net.ph

NURSE ASST.

THREE MONTH TRAINING PROGRAM

- Be a NURSE ASSISTANT! One of the fastest growing careers in the US, UK and Canada!
- Patterned after the CNA Training Program of our affiliate, OMEGA Healthcare Technical School (2320 W. Peterson, Chicago, IL, USA 60659)
- Comprehensive THEORY and CLINICAL Training

SERTO-OMEGA 806-8833
TESDA Reg. No. TR0213032018
31-A Love St. St. Joseph Subd., Las Pinas (bet. Alabang Town Center & Southmall) 803-7161

COPIERS Sales / Rentals

RICOH • Canon • Olivetti • Savin

ALSO AVAILABLE: LIQUID COPIERS

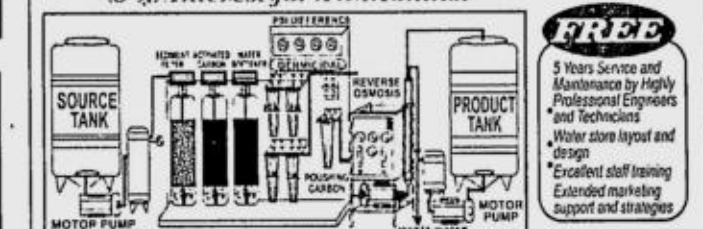
- BRAND NEW! RICOH FT 3012 BEST FOR BUSINESS P15,000. ONLY
- BRAND NEW! CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE P20,000. ONLY
- BRAND NEW! FULL COLOR DIGITAL COPIER P17,500. ONLY
- BRAND NEW! CANON FC 290 FOR PERSONAL USE P49,900. ONLY

PARTS & SUPPLIES AVAILABLE FOR MOST COPIER BRANDS!
COPYTRADE
Copytrade Bldg. 550 Mt. Jhocson St., Sampaloc, Manila (Beside Mt. Uni.)
Tels. 749-8155 to 56
781-3472 • 749-8216

BLUE BOZ WATER TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY

"Your Strategic Partner in Water Station Business"

0% Interest for 48 Months!



with More than 100 Stores Nationwide

OTHER PRODUCTS & SERVICES

- Hot & cold dispenser
- Pet Bottles
- Caps & cap seals
- Made to order stickers
- Table top Dispensers
- Sediment & Carbon Filters
- Reverse Osmosis Membranes
- Pumps & Motors
- UV Sterilizers
- Filters & Cartridges

For inquiries please Call or Visit us at
Tel. Nos. 634-1207 • 634-8542 • 632-0525
Unit 107 Parc Royale Condominium, Jade St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City

ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR WATER STORE NEEDS

P1 MILLION

PARA SA
DANCE PARADE
COMPETITION CHAMPION!

P500 THOUSAND
PARA SA
BEST FLOAT!



MANILA BROADCASTING COMPANY

INVITES YOU TO JOIN



APRIL 15, 16 & 17, 2004
STAR CITY, CCP COMPLEX

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY CONTACT
MS. ELOI PEREZ
AT 832-6121 TO 22 FOR DETAILS

CALL NOW!

ORIENTIQUE

3rd ANNIVERSARY
SALE 50% OFF
Feb 20 - March 20



HURRY! ALL ITEMS ON SALE, FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS ONLY! FABULOUS FURNITURE PIECES FROM INDONESIA, INDIA, CHINA, INCLUDING NEWLY ARRIVED EXOTIC, TROPICAL ITEMS FROM BALI, INDONESIA, AND WONDERFUL COLLECTION OF ART PIECES AND HOME DECOR ACCESSORIES, PERSON CARPETS, RUGS, KILIMS AND NEWLY DESIGNED INDONESIAN DRESSIES

ORIENTIQUE MANDALUYONG
No. 7 Pine Cor. Sheridan St.
746-6539, 746-6550

ORIENTIQUE ALABANG
804 Home Precinct Corner Cct. Filinvest
Area West Gate (Beside Fitness First) 771-1062, 771-1060

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER



JOBMarket
ONLINE

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

Malaysian monitors to visit 10 MILF bases

MALAYSIAN cease-fire monitors will inspect 10 bases of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the coming days ahead of the resumption of formal peace talks with the government in April.

Malaysia has been hosting negotiations to end more than three decades of a Muslim secessionist rebellion in which more than 120,000 people have been killed in the South.

The observers will inspect bases in Mindanao and hold nine days of consultations with officials from the Philippine government and the MILF, military officials and a rebel spokesperson said on Friday.

"We are very sure that the Malaysian monitors are coming this month," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff. "But the arrival date has not been fixed."

The MILF spokesperson said the ob-

servers would arrive on March 14.

The latest in a series of ceasefires was agreed in June, but on Wednesday govern-

ment forces shelled rebel positions in one of the areas due for inspection by the Malaysian monitors.

The shelling came

after about 200 MILF rebels ambushed soldiers chasing gunmen who kidnapped and killed four farmers.

"That's an isolated

case, we hope it will not escalate," said Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson.

Senior military officials said strict guide-

lines had been agreed to prevent both sides from accidentally shooting each other during the monitors' inspection. *Reuters*

65%

discount for halfway around the world*.
Only with Cathay Pacific.

Now you're really flying.

* New York and Toronto via Hong Kong from March 16 to May 31, 2004. Valid in GMA only. Call Cathay Pacific at 7570888 or your travel agent. All terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.

www.cathaypacific.com

CATHAY PACIFIC

For D12 NCR Permit No. 0507, Series of 2004

We've got it all for you!

SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

Get a chance to

WIN 10

ONE OF



NISSAN FRONTIER TITANIUM

CONGRATULATIONS to all the WINNERS!



METRO MANILA

Amabel H. Asuncion
Parang, Marikina City
Stub# 8092519

Marcelina C. Mamangas
Aduas Centro, Cabanatuan City
Stub# 25913136

Edith Liwag
Molino Homes Bacoar, Cavite
Stub# 16631858

LUCENA

Helen Pagsuyu
Radio Pantol, Lucena City
Stub# 2240440

BAGUIO

Rodrigo P. Guzman
Int'l Airport, Laoag City
Stub# 6224692

MARILAO

Rebecca Estrada
Bangcal Meycauayan, Bulacan
Stub# 6696041

CAGAYAN DE ORO

Joyce L. Avila
Talakag, Bukidnon
Stub# 769340

CEBU

Annie Ramos
Tisa, Cebu City
Stub# 6870669

ILOILO

Virna Jane M. Navarro
Sibalom, Antique
Stub# 5058477

DAVAO

Alda C. Ceria
Lagao, Gen. Santos City
Stub# 1709957

In cooperation with
Universal Motors Corporation
Assembler and distributor of Nissan Light Commercial & Recreational Vehicles

JVC CYBERCAM

SUMMER FUSION

CAPTURE THE EXCITEMENT.

This summer, discover JVC's

latest compact and feature-

packed camcorders.

Enjoy the superb picture quality,

wide angle shot compactness

and many more.

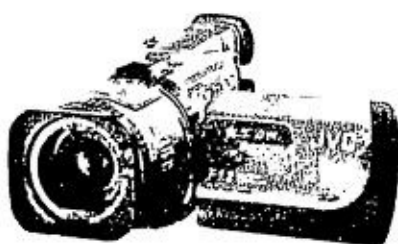
These camcorders also offer you

the multimedia functions to

create your own movies

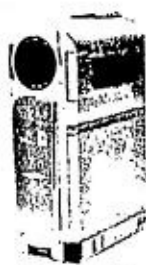
and memories.

JVC VCD CREATION CYBERCAMS



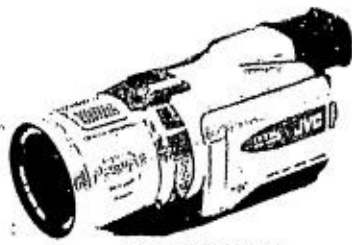
GR-DV4000U

- F1.2 SPHERICAL SUPER BRIGHT LENS
- 540 LINES HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION
- 3.5 LARGE LCD SCREEN
- MANUAL RING FOCUS



GR-DVP9

- ULTRA-STYLISH FLAT SURFACE DESIGN
- 1.33 MEGAPIXEL CCD
- MP3 DIGITAL SOUND EFFECT



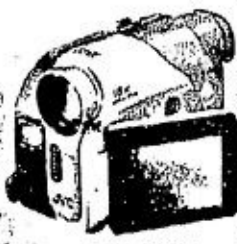
GR-DV5000U

- 540 LINES RESOLUTION
- 1.33 MEGAPIXEL CCD
- DV TITLE CONVERTER
- MPEG 4 E-MAIL VIDEO CLIP



GR-DX95U

- INNOVATIVE ULTRA-COMPACT DESIGN
- AUTO FLASH
- UNIQUE FOLDING 3.0" LARGE LCD MONITOR
- DV NAVIGATION



GR-D33U

- 16X OPTICAL / 700X DIGITAL ZOOM
- 3-DIMENSION NOISE REDUCTION
- 2.5 CRYSTAL CLEAR LCD MONITOR
- POWER LINKED OPERATION



GR-D93U

- NEW COMPACT DESIGN
- 10X OPTICAL / 500X DIGITAL ZOOM
- 1.33 MEGAPIXEL CCD
- AUTO ILLUMI-LIGHT

VIDEO ACCESSORIES INCLUDED ON ALL MODELS

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE STORES NATIONWIDE

JVC

The Perfect Experience

Distributed & Serviced by JVC (PHILIPPINES), INC.

2nd Flr., Jacinta Bldg. 2, EDSA, Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Tels 8822501 (Connecting all Depts.), Service Dept. Hotline: 8822509 8822510

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Malaysian monitors to visit 10 MILF bases

MALAYSIAN cease-fire monitors will inspect 10 bases of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the coming days ahead of the resumption of formal peace talks with the government in April.

Malaysia has been hosting negotiations to end more than three decades of a Muslim secessionist rebellion in which more than 120,000 people have been killed in the South.

The observers will inspect bases in Mindanao and hold nine days of consultations with officials from the Philippine government and the MILF military officials and a rebel spokesperson said on Friday.

"We are very sure that the Malaysian monitors are coming this month," said Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia, Armed Forces vice chief of staff. "But the arrival date has not been fixed."

The MILF spokesperson said the ob-

servers would arrive on March 14.

The latest in a series of ceasefires was agreed in June, but on Wednesday govern-

ment forces shelled rebel positions in one of the areas due for inspection by the Malaysian monitors.

The shelling came

after about 200 MILF rebels ambushed soldiers chasing gunmen who kidnapped and killed four farmers.

"That's an isolated

case, we hope it will not escalate," said Eid Kabalu, the MILF spokesperson.

Senior military officials said strict guide-

lines had been agreed to prevent both sides from accidentally shooting each other during the monitors' inspection. *Reuters*

65%

discount for halfway around the world.
Only with Cathay Pacific.

Now you're really flying.

* New York and Toronto via Hong Kong from March 16 to May 31, 2004. Valid in GMA only. Call Cathay Pacific at 1-800-888-8888 or your travel agent. All terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.

www.cathaypacific.com

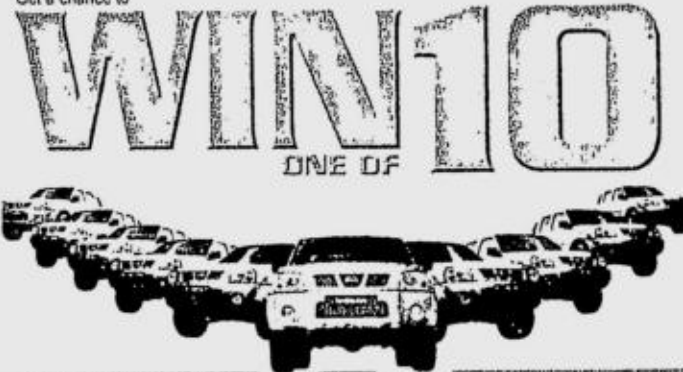
CATHAY PACIFIC

We've got it all for you!

SM

DEPARTMENT STORE

Get a chance to



NISSAN FRONTIER TITANIUM

CONGRATULATIONS to all the WINNERS!



Amabel H. Asuncion
Parang, Marikina City
Stub# 8092519

Marcelina C. Mamangas
Aduas Centro, Cabanatuan City
Stub# 25913136

Edith Liwag
Molino Homes Bacoor, Cavite
Stub# 16631858

Helen Pagsuyuin
Radio Pantol, Lucena City
Stub# 2240440

Rodrigo P. Guzman
Int'l Airport, Laoag City
Stub# 6224692

Rebecca Estrada
Bangcal Meycauayan, Bulacan
Stub# 6696041

Joyce L. Avila
Talakag, Bukidnon
Stub# 769340

Annie Ramos
Tisa, Cebu City
Stub# 6870669

Virna Jane M. Navarro
Sibalom, Antique
Stub# 5058477

Alda C. Ceria
Lagao, Gen. Santos City
Stub# 1709957

In cooperation with
Universal Motors Corporation
Assembler and distributor of Nissan Light Commercial & Recreational Vehicles

JVC CYBERCAM

SUMMER FUN FEST

CAPTURE THE EXCITEMENT

This summer, discover JVC's

latest compact and feature-

packed camcorders.

Enjoy the superb picture quality,

wide angle shot compactness

and many more.

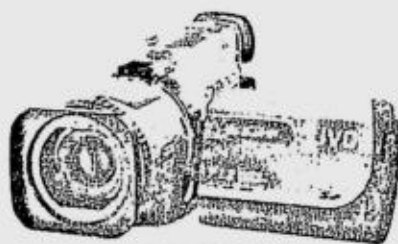
These camcorders also offer you

the multimedia functions to

create your own movies

and memories.

JVC VCD CREATION CYBERCAMS



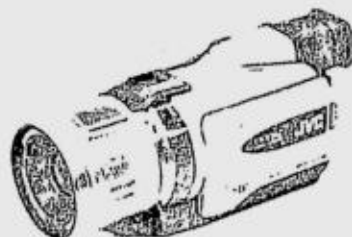
GR-DV4000U

- F1.2 SPHERICAL SUPER BRIGHT LENS
- 540 LINES HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION
- 3.5 LARGE LCD SCREEN
- MANUAL RING FOCUS



GR-DVP9

- ULTRA-STYLISH FLAT SURFACE DESIGN
- 1.33 MEGAPIXEL CCD
- MP3 DIGITAL SOUND EFFECT



GR-DV5000U

- 540 LINES RESOLUTION
- 1.33 MEGAPIXEL CCD
- DV TITLE CONVERTER
- MPEG 4 E-MAIL VIDEO CLIP



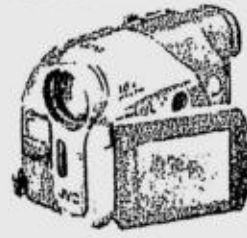
GR-DX95U

- INNOVATIVE ULTRA-COMPACT DESIGN
- AUTO FLASH
- UNIQUE FOLDING 3.0" LARGE LCD MONITOR
- DV NAVIGATION



GR-D33U

- 16X OPTICAL / 700X DIGITAL ZOOM
- 3-DIMENSION NOISE REDUCTION
- 2.5 CRYSTAL CLEAR LCD MONITOR
- POWER LINKED OPERATION



GR-D93U

- NEW COMPACT DESIGN
- 10X OPTICAL / 500X DIGITAL ZOOM
- 1.33 MEGAPIXEL CCD
- AUTO ILLUMI LIGHT

VIDEO ACCESSORIES INCLUDED ON ALL MODELS

AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING APPLIANCE STORES NATIONWIDE

JVC

The Perfect Experience

Distributed & Serviced by **JVC (PHILIPPINES), INC.**

2nd Flr., Jacinta Bldg. 2 EDSA, Brgy. Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City
Tels. 8822501 (Connecting all Depts.) Service Dept. Hotline: 8822509 8822510

CATCH THE JVC CYBERCAM MALL TOUR

Showcasing the latest & the hottest video cameras with hands-on demonstration.

TOUR SCHEDULE:

- SM MEGAMALL FEB. 12-15
- STA. LUCIA FEB. 19-22
- SM MANILA FEB. 26-29
- SM SOUTHMALL MAR. 4-7
- SM FAIRVIEW MAR. 11-14
- SM NORTH EDSA MAR. 18-21
- SM BACOR MAR. 25-28
- THE PODIUM APR. 1-4
- AYALA CENTER APR. 15-18
- FESTIVAL MALL APR. 22-25

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Poe 'vague' debt plan dulls demand ...

From page A1

nance her election campaign.

The BSP official said the results of the bond flotation were disappointing compared to neighboring Indonesia which raised \$1 billion from its latest bond float at significantly lower cost despite its lower credit rating than the Philippines.

Demand for the Indonesian bonds reached \$4 billion. It only paid 273 basis points above US Treasury notes. Indonesia has a lower credit rating of B or "highly speculative" versus the Philippine BB rating or "speculative."

Markets rattled

In a campaign booklet published on Tuesday, Poe had proposed the possible restructuring of the country's sovereign debts with foreign and local creditors during his first 100 days in office. The proposal rattled the markets which apparently misunderstood Poe's statements.

Poe's economic team later clarified that the movie actor would not declare a debt moratorium but would only seek to stretch the amortization period for the debts.

The government had signed a restructuring agreement with its creditor banks in the early '90s.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, a former stockbroker and an adviser of Ms Macapagal, estimated that Poe's remarks forced the Philippine government to cough up roughly \$13.2 million due to the bond's higher spread and drove away \$400 million in potential subscribers that were canceled.

Salceda noted that the bonds fared even poorly when they began trading in the secondary market with spreads jumping higher to 537 basis points even though Poe's camp had clarified his statement.

Salceda warned that Poe's remarks could still do more damage especially with the plan of National Power Corp. to borrow \$1.2 billion overseas later this month.

American financial services giant Citigroup said that while the likelihood of a debt restructuring was low, it warned that the "ambiguity in (Poe's) latest statements about seeking to 'stretch debt maturities,' his possible election must be treated with caution by bond investors."

Out of Calpers list

Meanwhile, the largest US pension fund will meet on Monday to decide whether to sell \$67 million of Philippine stocks after a review by the fund's emerging markets adviser left the country off its recommended investments list.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System (Calpers) said on Feb. 17 that it would delay a planned divestment for at least 30 days while it reviewed reforms that could make the Philippines a more attractive market.

But in a letter dated March 1 and posted on the Calpers website (www.calpers.com), adviser Wilshire Consulting said it saw no reason to change its view that the Philippines failed to make the grade on a checklist measuring stock market efficiency, corporate governance practices, political stability and human rights.

The review is on the agenda for a meeting

of Calpers' investment committee on Monday, the website shows.

Calpers' actions are closely watched because of the investment power the pension system wields on Wall Street and around the world as an activist investor.

With the peso near record lows and the government struggling to rein in a budget deficit bloated by interest payments on a mountain of debt, a pullout would deliver at least a psychological blow ahead of national elections on May 10.

Expectations that the influential fund would pull out of the Philippines have contributed to a 3.3-percent slide this week on the \$55 billion Manila stock market.

The benchmark index fell to 1,423.79 on Friday, its lowest close since Dec. 22.

Some analysts played down the significance of a withdrawal by Calpers.

Threshold for investment

"Other investors have long ago made a decision on the suitability of the Philippines as an investment site and they won't be influenced significantly in a big way by Calpers," said David Fernandez, head of Asian sovereign debt research at JP Morgan Chase in Singapore. "People have a hard time understanding the logic of Calpers' decisions."

A Calpers report card on emerging markets in February, compiled by Wilshire, gave the Philippines a score of 1.87 on a scale from one to three. That was up from a previous score of 1.46, but short of the fund's 2.00 threshold for investment.

With Reuters report

Erap: Take me to death row instead

From page A1

visit went, Estrada replied: "Puro iyak ang nangyari (She cried all the time). I told her to keep herself healthy."

Not mercy but the law

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a statement saying she was "thankful that well-meaning Filipinos understood [her] position" of "compassionate treatment" for her deposed predecessor.

She was referring to the joint statement issued Thursday by the Iglesia ni Cristo and El Shaddai calling for "charity and compassion" for Estrada.

But in a phone interview, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said the two politically influential religious groups were missing the point. He said the issue was not about mercy but about the absence of a law allowing house arrest.

He said the INC and El Shaddai should channel their calls for compassion for Estrada into concrete efforts to help craft a bill providing for house arrest.

No law on house arrest

Villa-Ignacio said it was unfair for Estrada and his family, as well as the two religious groups, to brand government and private prosecutors as lacking in compassion simply because they were trying to implement the law.

"Even if on the personal side I agree with them, I have professional duties as a prosecutor to exercise. And right now, there is no rule or laws allowing house arrest," he said.

"Much as I want to be merciful myself, there are legal constraints," he added.

Villa-Ignacio pointed out that as early as last year, the Sandiganbayan rejected Estrada's request for house arrest because of the absence of a law on the issue.

He called on the INC and El Shaddai to help in the enactment of a law allowing house arrest and "defining the standards and parameters" of its implementation.

Villa-Ignacio had earlier said Estrada visited his mother in San Juan not only on Christmas Day but also on New Year's Day without an explicit order from the Sandiganbayan's special division, which is hearing the graft and plunder charges against him.

Both Renato Bocar and Ed Urieta, Sandi-

ganbayan special division spokesperson and chief sheriff, respectively, said the anti-graft court issued no order allowing Estrada to visit his mother during the year-end holidays.

But Estrada's eldest son Jinggoy said Thursday "someone higher up" had given his father permission to leave Camp Capinpin.

From the heart

Ms Macapagal is now saying that she governs from the heart.

As though in response to the earlier contention of her political rival, Fernando Poe Jr., that for a leader, having a heart was more important than having brains, she said in her statement: "Some said that governance must come from the heart, and this is it. My heart governs under the principle of humaneness in accord with the law."

Ms Macapagal also said she held no rancor for Estrada who, she pointed out, was not supporting her candidacy despite her "compassionate" treatment of him: "The former President himself supports the opposition, and I do not mind."

She made the statement to assert that "there is no politics involved" in her justifying and posing no objection to Estrada's unauthorized trips outside Camp Capinpin.

Transfer to VMMC

Mike Defensor, Ms Macapagal's campaign spokesperson and personal emissary to Estrada, posed objection to Villa-Ignacio's petition to return the ex-President to hospital detention at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

Defensor said it was up to the Sandiganbayan to decide on the matter, but added: "I think the maximum consideration is to provide for him a more comfortable quarter, whether a house or a place that would not entail government expense."

Defensor said Camp Capinpin was a good place, "security-wise," for Estrada, who was moved from the VMMC to the Army camp last October, ostensibly because of threats on his life and a plot by his supporters to spring him.

Ricardo Saludo, deputy spokesperson for Ms Macapagal, had this to say at a briefing: "Our view is that there should be of course humane treatment of the former President under the law, and we shall comply with the law. Regard-

ing [Villa-Ignacio's] petition, it is something that the Sandiganbayan has to consider, and certainly when [Estrada] was at the [VMMC] he was given humane treatment under the law. And as long as this shall continue, we will interpose no objection to arrangements that will be decided on by the Sandiganbayan."

Call for ceasefire

The Philippine National Police is seeking a ceasefire in the current controversy surrounding Estrada.

PNP Director for Operations Avelino Razon Jr. said critics should await the ruling of the Sandiganbayan before passing judgment on PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and other top police officials.

"They should realize that the case is already being heard by the Sandiganbayan," he told the INQUIRER. "Any statement on the matter might just jeopardize the case."

Besides, he argued, Estrada remained safe and sound at Camp Capinpin.

Razon said the PNP would abide by whatever ruling the court would hand down.

The Sandiganbayan had earlier summoned Ebdane and Chief Supt. Rolando Sacramento to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court for purportedly allowing Estrada to slip out of the camp.

Razon said PNP authorities would also follow the court in case it decides that Estrada should be moved back to the VMMC, where he stayed for more than a year.

But Razon said moving Estrada back to the hospital would entail additional security.

'Healing the wounds'

Representatives Prospero Nograles (Davao City) and Augusto Syjuco (Iloilo), both of the ruling Lakas-CMD, lauded the INC and El Shaddai for their support of Ms Macapagal's policy of humane treatment for Estrada.

"It is time to heal the wounds of the past," Nograles said, adding that Estrada should be granted house arrest in keeping with "his dignity as a former national leader."

Syjuco said he was glad that the two religious groups understood Ms Macapagal's position. He said the President's policy of humane treatment complemented her call for unity and national unification. With reports from Christian V. Esguerra and Cynthia D. Balana

SOGO

Home & Office center

Soft & Stylish... sofa collection

PROMO PERIOD: March 13 - 31, 2004

For a minimum purchase of P2,000 you get a **FREE** pillow

SOLOMBIA CORNER SET Before P19,990 **NOW P9,995**

DAEJIN 3-pc. SOFA SET w/ 5 throw pillows in fabric Before P12,850 **NOW P8,995**

SISLEY SOFA SET w/ 4 throw pillows in fabric Before P12,300 **NOW P7,995**

VENYZE 3-pc. SOFA SET in Leatherette Before P11,420 **NOW P7,995**

BUTTERCUP 3-pc. SOFA SET in Leatherette Before P7,685 **NOW P4,995**

KEISHA 3-pc. SOFA SET in Leatherette Before P11,658 **NOW P6,995**

CAMILLE 3-pc. SALA SET Before P15,990 **NOW P7,995**

DAPHNE 2-pc. SOFA SET w/ 5 throw pillows in fabric Before P8,658 **NOW P5,195**

HELSENKI 2-seater SOFA Before P4,995 **NOW P3,995**

YUAN SOFA BED Before P9,980 **NOW P4,990**

FOLDING MATTRESS 3 Folds

Size	Sale Price
5.16cm.x77cm.x193.6cm.	698
5.16cm.x92.88cm.x193.6cm.	898
5.16cm.x108.36cm.x193.6cm.	998
5.16cm.x123.84cm.x193.6cm.	1158
5.16cm.x139.32cm.x193.6cm.	1298
5.16cm.x154.8cm.x193.6cm.	1458

SOFA BED

Size	Sale Price
92.88cm.x193.5cm.	2698
139.32cm.x193.5cm.	2998
154.8cm.x193.5cm.	3598
258cm.x193.5cm.	3998

Also available audio-video, appliances, electronics & houseware items

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1185 Series of 2004

Visit us now. All items on SALE!

Come Visit Our Stores. More Sale Items on Display.

SOGO FACTORY OUTLET
All Items 50% Off
P. Tuzon St. Alayeta Center, Q.C.
Tel. Nos. 911-9999 / 912-9999

SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER
2/F Tutuban Center Mall 1, Manila City
Tel. Nos. 230-4105 / 232-6105

SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER
4th Level Robinsons Metro-East
Maricor Highway, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 647-8805 / 60-700

SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER
Level 3 Asia City, Cebu Business Park, Lungsod, Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 232-1001 to 1012

SOGO HOME & OFFICE CENTER
2/F Zebute Town Ctr., 588 Cansim Rd. w/ Zebute Rd., North Calocan, Calocan City, Tel. # 962-4185 to 86

Everyday Low Prices

All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Visit our exhibit at Tutuban Prime Block, Level 3, Tel. Nos. 251-0886 or 255-2744



Water interruption in portions of Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Pasig due to water improvement project

Manila Water announced it will conduct looping activity on newly laid large mainlines along EDSA and Annapolis to upgrade and improve water distribution.

The water cutoff will be from 12:01 a.m. to 5:01 a.m., Sunday, March 14, 2004.

Affected Areas are:

San Juan: Greenhills, Little Baguio, Maytunas, Once, Tibayan, Isabelita, Kabayanan and Valencia.

Mandaluyong: Wack-Wack, Pleasant Hills, Addition Hills, Hagdang Bato, Libis, Mauway, Highway Hills, Malamig, Barangka Drive, Barangka Ilaya, Barangka Ibaba, Barangka Itaas, Buwayang Bato, Plainview and Hagdang Itaas.

Pasig: San Antonio, Ortigas Center, Orambo, Kapitolyo and part of Ugong.

Quezon City: Bgy. Valencia, Horseshoe Drive, Kaunlaran, San Martin, Bagong Lipunan, Camp Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, Immaculate Conception, Milagrosa, Socorro, San Roque, Deoquino, Masagana, Villa Ma. Clara and Bayanihan.

Low water pressure will be felt in parts of Barangay Mariana, Libis, St. Ignatius, E. Rodriguez Jr. and Silangan, Quezon City.

Residents are advised to store enough water prior to the schedule of the water interruption.

Manila Water



For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.



Guingona joins FPJ camp

From page A1

chosen at that by the sitting President," Escudero said.

Sen. Loren Legarda, Poe's running mate, said Guingona's defection would "strengthen the opposition because of Guingona's immense credibility."

Reached for comment, the President's campaign officials said they would seek a meeting with Guingona to "thresh out the issues" and hoped the Vice President would reconsider.

"We hold the Vice President in high regard. We know that there have been some misunderstandings in the past but we still hope that he will uphold the greater interest of the people," the President's campaign spokesperson, Mike Defensor, said in a phone interview.

Still best option

"I know it will be hard [for Guingona], but I'm optimistic that at some point he will realize that the President is still the best option for the country," he said.

Defensor said officials of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats would also talk to Guingona even as he dismissed as "propaganda" Herrera's claim that 50 Lakas congressmen would soon be defecting to Poe.

"I hope he will be persuaded, after all he is a stalwart of the party," said Defensor who last month expressed "shock" at reports that Guingona was considering joining forces with Poe.

Guingona resigned as foreign secretary last year because of policy differences with the President which he said were "irreconcilable." The Vice President was opposed to the presence in the country of United States troops participating in joint military exercises with the Philippine military.

This was followed by Guingona's resignation as president of the ruling Lakas-CMD on the eve of Ms Macapagal's declaration to seek a full term in 2004, which Guingona saw as reneging on her earlier pledge not to run.

Spying

More recently, Guingona accused the Armed Forces of spying on him amid reports that he was being wooed by the Poe camp.

He also warned against the return of a police state after he was linked to a reported destabilization attempt by the Kawal Filipino, a group of disgruntled junior military officers.

Ms Macapagal had chosen Guingona as her vice president from a field that included Pimentel, upon being installed in power after the second EDSA people power uprising that ousted disgraced President Estrada.



GUINGONA makes an official announcement today. PDI PHOTO

Escudero said he saw other politicians defecting to the Poe camp "as they hear about crowds greeting Fernando Poe."

Maceda said Guingona's decision to support Poe was hardly surprising, as "how can Guingona support GMA with whom he has been at loggerheads?"

"It will be a big boost for FPJ. This is going to be the first of many of those not yet decided," he said.

Wife is official bet

Pimentel said that Guingona's wife Ruth had "already preceded" the Vice President into the opposition camp as she was earlier declared the KNP's candidate for mayor of Gingoog City.

Reports last month also said that his son, Teofisto Guingona III, was running as the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino candidate in the second congressional district of Bukidnon province.

Pimentel clarified, however, that Guingona's declaration of support for Poe did not necessarily mean that he would be joining the KNP coalition.

Herrera said some 56 Lakas congressmen, including maverick Rep. Jacinto Paras (Negros Occidental), would follow Guingona's lead and will soon be leaving the ruling party. He said the Lakas legislators will declare their open support for Poe on March 26.

"The GMA machinery will crumble because many of the Lakas members will be joining the KNP," he said.

'Good for month of April'

Herrera said that in political circles is that the President's initials, GMA, actually for "good [only for the month of] April."

Defensor dismissed Herrera's claim, saying Lakas legislators

had no reason to abandon the President.

"I want to know who they are, but I don't think that's true," he said, adding that if some party members had problems, they could take these up directly with the President.

Maceda said the Nationalist People's Coalition will finally come up with an official party stand on which presidential candidate it would support by the end of March.

"I stand by my previous assessment that

70 percent of the NPC will go for FPJ," Maceda said.

The NPC was founded by businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and is the second largest political party after the Lakas-CMD with which it has a

working coalition in the House of Representatives.

Asked if Cojuangco will come out with his own preference for President, Maceda said: "I doubt it very much."

"Mr. Cojuangco is different

from the NPC. The NPC has a set of leaders. The announcement will be made by the NPC as a party and not by Cojuangco," Maceda said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javelana*

San Cristobal Garden Homes

Calamba, Laguna



Initial Down Payment P5,000

Available thru PAG-IBIG & SSS

A project of

OMNI ASIA Property Ventures

Tel. (049) 2455352 / (049) 2457336 / 0917-9198419 / 0920-2100952 / 813-8382 Loc. 730

WELCOME Agents/Brokers

A World Class Business School

IAME

International Academy of Management & Economics

Foreign Faculty Members with Global Business Experience

Top-off with UK, US, Australian, and Swiss School Affiliates

International Exchange and Internship Programs

Scholarship/Grants Available for Incoming Freshmen

Intensive English Class for Foreign Students

MBA Designed for young managers Part-time in one year

eMBA Executive Program Part-time in one year

PhD Open to DBA graduates or equivalent One-on-one instruction

Under graduate Program:

Diploma in Management Bachelor of Business Administration •Management •Marketing •Banking •HR •Finance

Noli Santos International Tower 1061 Metropolitan Avenue, San Antonio, Makati 1200 Tel. No.: +63 (02) 896-23-55, 58 Fax: +63 (2) 896-23-51, programs@iame.edu.ph

www.iame.edu.ph

Name: _____ Program: (tick one) ☐ MBA ☐ eMBA ☐ PhD ☐ BSBA ☐ Dip
Address: _____ Contact No/s: _____
e-mail: _____

KAPAG NAKAGAT NG ASO, WAG NANG HINTAYIN PANG MAY MAULOL.

Iwasang mamatay sa rabis. Kapag nakagat ng aso o pusa, tumawag agad sa ABC Emergency Hotline sa 816-1111 o magtungo sa pinakamalapit na Animal Bite Center.

ANG RABIS MABANGIS

ABC ANIMAL BITE CENTER EMERGENCY HOTLINE 816-1111

Aventis Pasteur

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Saturday, March 13, 2004
2nd Week of Lent

1st Reading: Mic 7:14-15, 18-20
Gospel: Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were seeking the company of Jesus, all of them eager to hear what he had to say. But the Pharisees and the Scribes frowned at this, muttering, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable: "There was a man with two sons. The younger said to his father: 'Give me my share of the estate.' So the father divided his property between them."

"Some days later, the younger son gathered all his belongings and started off for a distant land where he squandered his wealth in loose living. Having spent everything, he was hard pressed when a severe famine broke out in that land. So he hired himself out to a well-to-do citizen of that place and was sent to work on a pig farm. Finally coming to his senses, he said: 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will get up and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against God and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son. Treat me then as one of your hired servants.' With that thought in mind he set off for his father's house."

"He was still a long way off when his father caught sight of him. His father was so deeply moved with compassion that he ran out to meet him, threw his arms around his neck and kissed him. The son said: 'Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I no longer deserve to be called your son...' But the father turned to his servants: 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and kill it. We shall celebrate and have a feast, for this son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and is found. And the celebration began.'

Commentary

Long reading, short commentary! Let Julian of Norwich do it for us. "Our courteous Lord will show himself to the soul full joyfully and with glad countenance and friendly welcoming, as if he had been in pain and in prison, saying sweetly, 'My darling, I am glad that you are come to me: in all your woe I have always been with you, and now you see my love, and we will be united in bliss.' Thus are our sins forgiven by mercy and grace, and we are received with joy, just as it will be when we come to heaven."

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Spain mourns 'Our September 11'

MADRID—Spain mourned for at least 198 people killed in Europe's worst attack in 15 years as investigators tried on Friday to pin down if Basque separatists or Muslim militants were behind the bombs on commuter trains.

Campaigning for Sunday's general election was halted as millions were set to join evening protests across Spain called by Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar under the slogan "With the Victims, With the Constitution, For the Defeat of Terrorism."

Updated official counts put the total of dead at 198, plus 1,430 wounded. With 60 of the wounded in a serious or very serious state, the death toll was expected to rise.

The Spanish government said it believed Basque guerrilla group ETA (Euskadi ta Askatasuna), which wants independence for the northern region, was most likely to blame for Thursday's simultaneous bombings of four trains at Madrid stations—Spain's worst ever attack.

However, Interior Minister Angel Acebes said police were not ruling out any clues after finding a van containing seven detonators and a tape in Arabic at a town near Madrid where the bombs may have been placed on the trains.

And a letter apparently from a group aligned to al-Qaida claimed responsibility.

"The evidence points toward ETA but of course we cannot exclude any other possibility," Foreign Minister Ana Palacio said on Friday.

Spanish papers said finding out who was responsible for "Our Sept. 11" would be critical to



VICTIMS sit on the tracks just outside Madrid's Atocha station as they are tended by rescue workers following one of a series of deadly explosion March 11. Ten simultaneous explosions killed 198 people on packed Madrid commuter trains on Thursday in Europe's bloodiest attack for more than 15 years.

REUTERS

Sunday's general election.

"The important thing is to clarify what happened and bring all the evidence to light so that Spaniards can go to the ballot box knowing who is the author of this massacre," the right-leaning El Mundo said in an editorial comment.

The ruling center-right Popular Party (PP) had campaigned on its hardline stance against ETA. But if the attacks were by al-Qaida

militants, it could be viewed as the price for Spain's backing of the US-led war in Iraq.

"If the hell unleashed which burned the whole of Madrid on Thursday is the result of Islamic fanaticism, we must look at Spain's role in the Iraq war: an involvement which our citizens rejected, a personal decision by the prime minister beyond the wishes of the majority," commentator Antonio Gala said.

Spaniards were shocked and confused by the attacks.

"Not knowing who is responsible just makes it more awful.

Personally, I don't think al-Qaida could operate here. Or the only way they could do it would be to pay someone else here," Juan Ochoa said, discussing events in a Madrid bar.

No authentication was available of the letter attributed to the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, a

group aligned to al-Qaida.

"We have succeeded in infiltrating the heart of crusader Europe and struck one of the bases of the crusader alliance," said the letter, a copy of which was faxed by London-based al-Quds newspaper to Reuters in Dubai.

Investigators say there were 10 blasts. The bombs, in rucksacks, each contained about 10 kg of explosives.

Amid a wave of grief and revul-

sion, Spaniards placed candles and flowers at the Santa Eugenia station in southeastern Madrid where one of the blasts occurred.

A walkout of workplaces was set for noon and mass demonstrations at 7 p.m.

Witnesses described scenes of horror and carnage at the three Madrid stations hit by the blasts.

"The hardest thing was hearing mobile phones ringing in the pockets of the bodies. They couldn't get that out of their heads," Esperanza Aguirre, head of the Madrid regional government, said of those who had dealt with the aftermath.

Israeli medical examiners experienced in identifying victims of Palestinian suicide bombings have been asked to assist Spanish pathologists and will travel to Madrid soon.

If ETA is responsible it would be by far the bloodiest attack carried out by the group, which has killed about 850 people since 1968 in its fight for a separate Basque homeland in northwest Spain and southwest France. ETA has been branded a terrorist group by the United States and the European Union.

Friday should have been the culmination of Spain's general election campaign which has focused on Spain's unity, threatened by calls from Basque and Catalan nationalists for more autonomy.

Instead, the major parties stopped campaigning.

Thursday's death toll was the biggest in a guerrilla attack in Europe since December 1988 when a bomb exploded on board a Pan American Boeing 747, bringing it down on the Scottish town of Lockerbie. In all, 270 people were killed.

Reuters

UN faces new questions over handling of Rwanda genocide

UNITED NATIONS—The United Nations faced new questions on Thursday over its handling of the 1994 Rwanda genocide after admitting it had received an airplane black box from the country at the time—and then forgot about it until a newspaper report this week.

French daily Le Monde on Tuesday reported an unpublished French police enquiry had determined the world body had been given the black box from the plane in which then Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana was killed.

The April 6, 1994 crash helped set off the mass slaughter of up to

one million ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus launched by extremist militias and the Hutu army, one of the worst such episodes of the 20th century.

After at first ridiculing the claim, UN spokesperson Fred Eckhard on Thursday admitted that a black box had indeed been received from Rwanda at UN headquarters in 1994, but was locked away in a filing cabinet and forgotten.

He said documents indicated that UN officials at the time concluded that the box was in "pristine condition" and could not have been involved in a crash. It will now be sent to outside investigators, Eckhard said.

"We don't know enough yet," he said.

The Rwandan genocide has been a black mark on the reputation of the United Nations, whose peacekeepers on the ground failed to prevent the genocide.

The embarrassment has been compounded for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who was the head of UN peacekeepers at the time and who was named in a later report as bearing part of the blame for the catastrophe.

"The secretary general wants to know exactly what went on 10 years ago that this matter wasn't reported up the chain (of command)," Eckhard said. "We are in the process of

looking at the paper trail."

But he insisted that Annan and other top UN officials involved with Rwanda had "no knowledge" of the existence of the black box, which was shipped to the United Nations via Nairobi "two to three months" after the slaughter began.

"I was surprised as you were to find out that a black box existed, much less in this building. From what I have picked up, it sounds like a real foul-up, a first-class foul up," Annan said on Thursday.

The report in Le Monde said that a French judge had determined that the United Nations obstructed the enquiry, and that

the plane had likely been shot down on orders of current Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

"It appears that the air safety officials at the time judged from the appearance of this black box that it had no connection with the air crash," Eckhard said.

"We will send this black box out as soon as possible to a responsible authority... to have its contents analyzed," he said.

Ambassadors from the UN Security Council, including current president France, found out about the box through questions from reporters and indicated they had not been told of the discovery ahead of time.

AFP

Court halts S. Francisco gay weddings

SAN FRANCISCO—California's Supreme Court on Thursday ordered San Francisco to halt the same-sex marriages that have sparked a passionate nationwide debate on whether gay couples can wed legally.

The decision, which will be reviewed again in May or June, comes exactly one month after San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom gave the green light to gay marriages, resulting in more than 4,000 homosexual pairings since then.

Newsom said he would comply with the ruling but city attorney Dennis Herrera said he had filed a new petition with the court late on Thursday to determine whether same-sex marriage is constitutional in California.

In its order, the state's top court referred to the California code that defines marriage as a union of man and woman and told San Francisco "to refrain from issuing marriage licenses or certificates not authorized by such provisions."

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who had asked state Attorney General Bill Lockyer to seek a ruling on gay marriages from the Supreme Court, said he was "pleased" at the ruling.

"I believe very strongly that the people should obey the laws that we have here in California," Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

Opponents of same-sex marriage hailed the decision.

The mayor "violated his oath and made a mockery of the democratic system," said Mathew Staver, president of Liberty Counsel, which had sued to prevent gay marriages.

Reuters

Japanese firm sold Libya machinery used in attempt to build nuke weapon

VIENNA—A company from Japan, the only country in the world to have suffered the effects of an atom bomb, sold Libya machinery in the 1980s that Tripoli used in its unsuccessful attempt to build a nuclear weapon, diplomats said.

In December, Libya announced it was abandoning its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs and would dismantle them with the help of US, British and international experts.

The UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) began weapons inspections in Libya in late December and issued a report last month in which it described how Libya had acquired "from abroad" a pilot uranium conversion plant that could be used to prepare uranium for the enrichment process.

"It was a Japanese company," a nuclear expert said.

Although the Japanese mission to the UN did not respond to Reuters' request for comment, several Western diplomats who follow the IAEA said the firm was Japanese.

A Feb. 24 report on weapons inspections in Libya written by IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei made it clear Libya's atomic weapons program was much more extensive than previously thought. Tripoli had even managed to produce a small amount of bomb-grade plutonium.

Libya's uranium-conversion research was among the country's many undeclared activities connected to its weapons program.

Diplomats said the Japanese sale of the conversion equipment, made to order according to specifications from Libya, is something that should have set alarm bells ringing in Japan and should been

reported to the IAEA at the time.

"It's certainly not only something that should raise eyebrows, it's something that would have to be declared," said Jon Wolfsthal, deputy director of the Nonproliferation Project at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Companies and individuals from Europe, the United States, Africa, the Middle East and Asia are known to have supplied Libya, Iran and North Korea with sensitive nuclear technology via an elaborate black market linked to the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, Abdul Qadeer Khan.

However, in the case of the conversion plant, the deal was not arranged by middlemen seeking to disguise the identity of the end user, diplomats said. The Japanese firm agreed directly with Libya on the sale of the plant in 1984.

Reuters

Diana describes confronting Camilla in tape

NEW YORK—Princess Diana chose the birthday party of Camilla Parker Bowles' sister to confront the woman having an affair with her husband, Prince Charles, according to excerpts of audiotapes made by Diana and aired in the United States Thursday by the NBC television network.

At the party, which took place in the winter of 1989, Diana found her husband and another guest alone with Camilla.

"I said to the two men, 'OK, boys, I'm just going to have a quick word with Camilla... and they shot up-

stairs like chickens with no heads."

Then Diana, admitting to feeling "terrified of her," recalls telling Camilla, "I know what's going on between you and Charles, and I just want you to know that."

Camilla's response: "You've got everything you ever wanted. You've got all the men in the world (to) fall in love with you and you've got two beautiful children, what more do you want?"

"I want my husband," Diana replied.

"And I said to Camilla, 'I'm sorry

I'm in the way, and it must be hell for both of you. But I do know what's going on. Don't treat me like an idiot."

NBC has broadcast numerous excerpts from the tapes in which Diana describes such things as her marital frustration, unhappiness as a royal, eating disorders and suicide attempts. The tapes were the basis for Andrew Morton's book, "Diana: Her True Story."

Excerpts were aired Thursday morning on the "Today" show. The second part of a prime-time NBC News special, "Princess Di-

ana: The Secret Tapes," was to air Thursday night.

With its publication in 1992, the Morton book angered Diana's family, friends and the royal family. The couple formally separated that year, and were divorced in 1996, a year before Diana's death.

In 1994, Prince Charles acknowledged in a TV documentary that he had strayed from his marriage vows, but insisted the infidelity happened only after the marriage was "irretrievably broken down, us both having tried." AP



REUNITED

Delimar Vera (right) gets a hug from her mother Luz Cuevas, as Cuevas' son Wilfredo Cuevas (bottom) peeks around the door at the Cuevas residence in Philadelphia, March 9. Vera was returned to her mother by officials after DNA evidence proved that she was the child that was presumed dead in a 1997 house fire. New Jersey resident Carolyn Correa is in police custody charged with arson in the blaze that was believed used as a diversion for the infants abduction. Picture taken March 9.

REUTERS

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

VISIT US AT

www.jobmarketonline.com

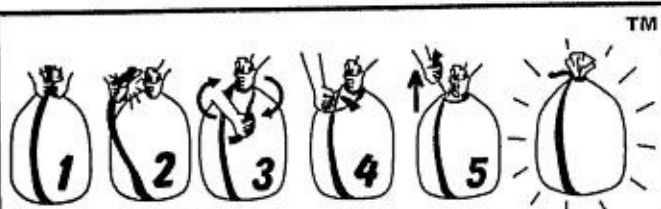
JOBMarket



THE ONLY TRASH BAGS WITH A BUILT IN TIE

UNDER PHIL. PATENT U.M. 7402, 7433

QUICKTIE™/EASYTIE™ TRASH BAG



COLOR CODING GUIDE:

BLACK BAG for NON BIODEGRADABLE WASTES

• like plastics, styrofoam, tetrapacks, etc.

GREEN BAG for BIODEGRADABLE WASTES

• like kitchen wastes and garden refuse, etc.

YELLOW BAG for PATHOLOGICAL/INFECTIOUS WASTES

• like sanitary napkins and tissues, etc.

TRANSPARENT BAG

• Has not been assigned to a particular type of waste. May be utilized as preferred by user.

Small 18"x20" (No Tie) and Medium 22"x24" (No Tie) in 25's & 100's • Large 26"x32", XLarge 30"x37" and XXLarge 37"x40" in 10's & 30's.

AVAILABLE AT LEADING SUPERMARKETS:



"We've made it with MSA!!!"



Dexter
UP Dilman

MSA

Marites
UP PGH

315 Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

925-7544 • 929-9145 • 929-9159 • 925-7216

Quezon City

Prince David Condominium

Katipunan Ave., Loyola Hts.

435-6062

435-6063

Makati City

101 Esteban - Dela Rosa,

Legaspi Village

815-1307

893-3326 813-0943

Alabang

South Center Tower,

Madrigal Business Park

850-6550

850-6551

Cainta

Franco St.,

Vista Verde

Imelda Avenue

646-8243

Antipolo

24 Irwin Street,

Filinvest Homes East

Marcos Highway

646-8245

SM Fairview

Second floor

SM Mall

Novaliches,

Quezon City

Cebu City

Rivergate Complex

49-A Maxium Ave.,

(032) 255-2191

255-2193

FANTASTIC!

Get a free stand fan worth P1,495.00 from GE with every purchase of selected GE appliances. Promo valid until April 30 only.

Offer applies to purchase of selected GE window type airconditioners, single-door refs, 2-direct cool refs, asian topmount refs, stainless topmount and bottom mount refs and chest freezers. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1178 Series of 2004.

MAPAPAMURA KA SA LAMIG!

The GE SmartAir Series Airconditioners. *With best in class EER of 11, get airconditioning for as little as 3 centavos a minute energy consumption.



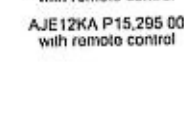
AJV05KA P7,995.00



AJE07KA P11,995.00 with remote control



AJE09KA P13,995.00 with remote control



AJE12KA P15,295.00 with remote control

With the best Energy Efficiency Rating in its class, the GE SmartAir Series Airconditioners at 0.65 hp, is designed to give you superb performance and even cooler savings. Now available at a very affordable P7,995, and with models that come with a free remote control, it's never been easier to stay cool this summer. So huwag matakot magpalamig. Mag GE airconditioner na.

GE imagination at work

CALL (02) 631-8282 Shangri-La, (02) 633-9953 Megamall, (02) 687-1566 Cybermall-Eastwood, NOW (02) 815-8875 MC Home Depot-Fort Bonifacio, (02) 887-0075 Glorietta 4.

Official Distributor **CYA Industries Incorporated**

* For AJV05KA models only. Based on basic charges of Metro Manila household rates. Available at leading appliance stores nationwide.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Smelled like New Year, says ferry fire witness

From page A1

cannon being fired. He said he was familiar with the sound because his neighbors used to fire cannons like those.

"Your whole body would shake," he said.

The Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang earlier claimed to have planted a suicide bomber on the ship. Abu Sayyaf leader Khaddafy Janjalani identified the alleged bomber as Arnulfo Alvarado, reportedly listed as "Passenger 51" in the tourist section. He said Alvarado's real name was Abu Muadz and was a native of Pata Island in Sulu.

The ship's owner, Aboitiz Transport Systems, said Alvarado has been tagged a "no status passenger" because nobody has come forward claiming to be his relative or that he is missing.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday cautioned against speculating on the cause of the explosion, saying the final report of the official probe should be awaited.

"Reason and logic must govern these things and let us not raise any phantom fears," said Ms Macapagal in a statement.

The President insisted even before the start of the official investigation that there was no evidence that it was a terrorist attack.

No alarm sounded

In his testimony before the board, Reyes said he heard no general alarm being sounded. He also said he did not feel the sprinkler system working while he was trying to help the passengers on the burning ship.

"I only got wet when I jumped into the sea," said Reyes who was asked to describe what a sprinkler looked like and how it worked.

Reyes, who was standing by the door of Room 203 when he heard the explosion, said he fell and was thrown a few meters across the room. He said he found it difficult to breathe and tried to run to another part of the ship, bringing the male occu-

pant of Room 203 with him.

The lady that he was showing to the room and who was standing right behind him was probably trapped when the ceiling fell, he said.

Reyes suffered minor burns on the back of his head and his right forearm. The hair on the back of his head was also singed.

He said he could see several small fires when he looked out of the room. He also heard people crying out although he did not see anyone.

The steward said that while walking through the tourist section after the explosion, he passed Room 200 and could hear people from inside banging on the door and asking to be let out.

Trapped passengers

He said he and another crew member tried but failed to break down the door using fire extinguishers and heavy tables. He believes the door could not be opened because the ceiling may have

caved in and was blocking the door.

Seeing that trying to rescue the trapped passengers was futile, Reyes said he decided to go and help other passengers instead.

Reyes also testified that repairs were being done in bunks 1 to 12, located in a room just across from Room 203. He said the ceiling was open, while the floor was dirty. But he said he did not notice any other construction equipment or paint in the room.

Rescuers yesterday recovered two more bodies from the half-submerged 10,000-ton Superferry 14 in Mariveles, Bataan, bringing the number of recovered bodies to 29. Most of the 899 people on board the ship survived but 90 are still missing.

Relatives of the missing continue to wait and hope.

"It is torture," said an angry and visibly tired Evelyn Atienza Collete as she waited with hundreds of other relatives at the Bayview Park Hotel in Ermita, Manila.

They all attended a 2 p.m. Mass officiat-

ed by running priest Fr. Robert Reyes at Plaza Ferguson near the hotel's parking lot.

The priest led the relatives on a symbolic walk from the hotel to the carabao statue across the Rizal Monument, and back to the hotel parking lot.

The relatives held up white placards where they had written the names of their missing. Some even had photos of their loved ones.

Slow search

The relatives decried the slow search and recovery operations.

"So much time is spent on explaining what happened. Their [the relatives'] concern right now is that they recover the bodies," said Fr. Reyes.

Body parts have filled several body bags after two weeks of search and recovery operations of the Philippine Coast Guard, the transportation and communication department, and volunteer search and rescue teams.

Fr. Reyes said the relatives are already "exhausted emotionally and financially," particularly from the effort of keeping touch with relatives in the provinces who are also waiting for news.

The relatives, who mostly use cellular phones in communicating with their families, have appealed to the cellular phone companies to help them by providing them with prepaid cards.

Some 200 relatives of Superferry 14 victims have been staying at the Bayview as the search and recovery operations continue.

The relatives, a maximum of two for every missing person, are given free meals and a P200 transportation allowance.

But Collete, who manages an elderly care facility in the United States and came home after hearing of the tragedy, said that all she needed was her "baby sister."

A strand of hair of hope

Her sister, Daisy Atienza, a Mindanao State University professor, was returning home from a campus journalism conference in Sta. Cruz, Laguna, where her students had participated in several writing competitions.

"I am holding on, even if only a strand of hair of hope is left," said Collete.

The relatives have also sought the help of the Public Attorneys' Office. Percy Acosta of the PAO said that the agency would help in delivering justice to the victims.

Fr. Reyes said the relatives could actually file a class suit against Aboitiz Transport for "corporate neglect." With a report from *Tara Quismundo* and *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Alvarez . . .

From page A1

to undergo a mastectomy or breast surgery last year. But the chemotherapy has been stopped because of bad side effects, Alvarez said. Cecile collapsed a few days ago while pinch-hitting for her husband on his radio program. She had also been actively campaigning for him.

Alvarez, a former environment secretary, senator for 12 years and more recently, secretary general and spokesperson of the administration party Lakas-CMD, is running for senator as an independent and without any party backing.

Alvarez found himself suddenly out in the cold when President Macapagal-Arroyo did not include him in the administration slate of senatorial candidates. In his stead, the administration coalition accommodated reelectionist John Osmeña and ex-Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who lost in the 2001 elections. Both used to be with the opposition under deposed President Joseph Estrada and were staunch critics of Ms Macapagal.

"I have always taken the path less taken in standing up for principles," Alvarez said, "but may I also stress that even if I have been a risk taker in my political career, I can never gamble with my wife's life."

To New York

Alvarez said he would be away for about a week to bring Cecile to the Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute in New York, where she had her mastectomy.

Alvarez and his family were in exile in the United States during the martial law years. While there, Alvarez founded an anti-Marcos movement that lobbied for the cutting of US military and economic aid to the Marcos dictatorship. The Alvarezes returned to the Philippines after Marcos fled.

Cecile, a known theater personality, founded the pioneering Philippine Educational Theater Association and is the youngest Filipino to have received the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

"I beg the indulgence of all our friends, family and colleagues and thank them for their faith and support while I miss out on some planned sorties," Alvarez said. "My children, Hexilon and Xilca, with dedicated volunteers, will man the fort and I shall be on the phone and Internet."

Series of miracles

Like his hero Ninoy Aquino in times of distress and uncertainty, Alvarez said his family's only armor is "faith in God and trust in the people, and with determination, to do what is right."

"If I had my way I wouldn't leave," Cecile said. "But our life has always been a series of miracles since when we were in exile. I have always been by my husband's side. People know how my husband had served."

Referring to Alvarez's running solo, Cecile said: "Ito ay laban para sa prinsipyo. (This is a fight for principles.)" This is the Lenten season, she said, and the resurrection is close at hand.

In his briefing, Alvarez also called on the families of overseas Filipino workers to urge their kin abroad to cast their vote. "This will comprise an intelligent, decisive vote," Alvarez said.

DigitAll flair

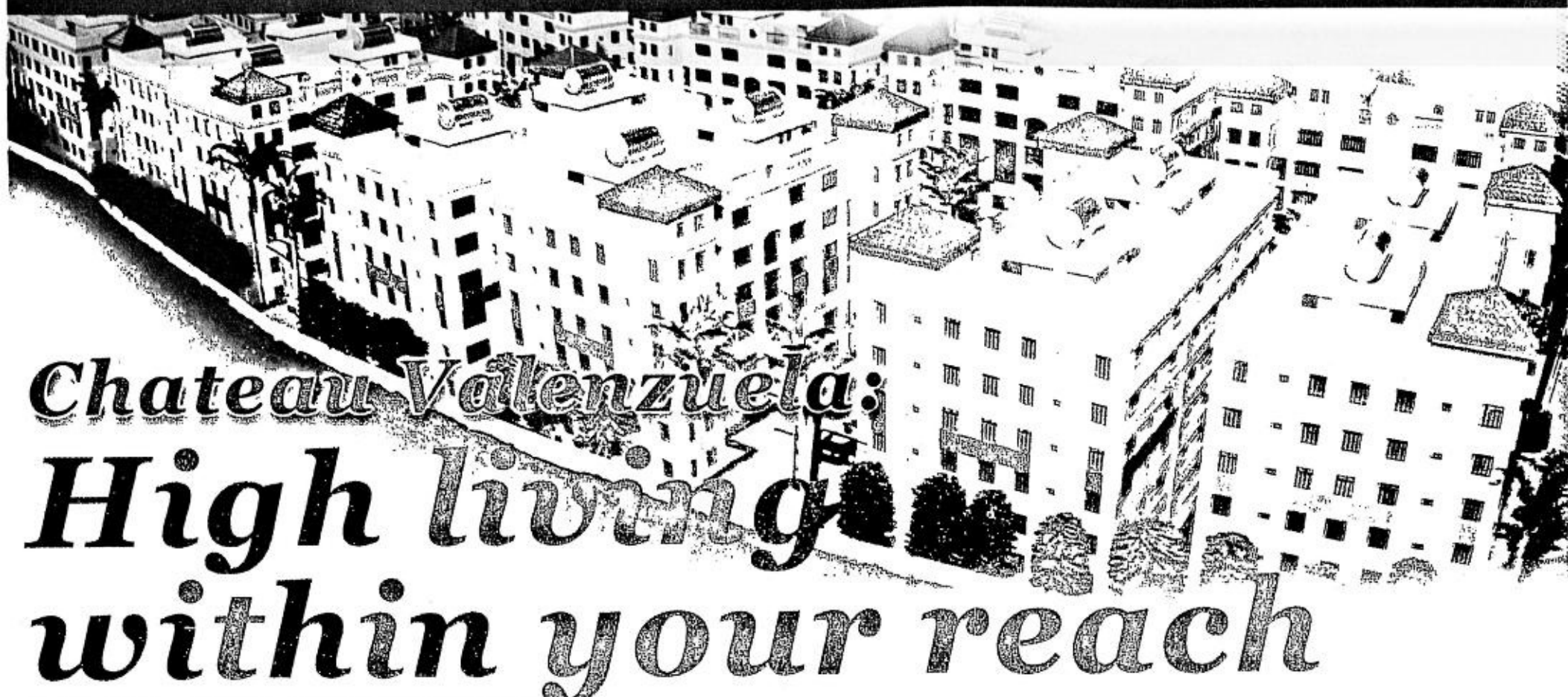
- Magic Tune / Buttonless OSD control with Color Calibration
- Best Ergonomics with Magic Stand (Pivot, Tilt, Swivel & Foldable Stand)
- The Widest Viewing Angle of 178°
- TCO 03 Certified

SAMSUNG DIGITall
everyone's invited™

www.samsungelectronics.ph

Samsung Electronics Philippines Corporation Ground Floor, Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila
Tel. No. 722-7777 • Fax No. 722-9392 • For Customer Care Centre, dial 1-800-10SAMSUNG

GLOBE ASIATIQUE REALTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION



Chateau Valenzuela: High living within your reach

Messages



I CONVEY my warmest greetings to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on the grand launch of Chateau Valenzuela.

The efforts to redefine the lifestyle of an important sector of our society, the middle-working class, are commendable. As we move ahead in uniting and developing our country, I enjoin the Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation and the Pag-IBIG Fund, its partner in this housing venture, to march with me towards path of progress. I encourage you to sustain your laudable undertakings. Your dedication and valuable service to the Filipino people will always be a source of inspiration and hope to those whose lives you have touched.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



GREETINGS to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on the grand opening of Chateau Valenzuela.

It would be impossible to talk about this housing venture without mentioning the most important feature of Globe Asiatique's Chateau Valenzuela—luxury and first-class amenities at the most affordable price and its easy financing scheme. With the middle-income earners as its target market, we foresee a radical change in the make-up of the working class as it enters the realm of upscale living, as only Globe Asiatique could do it.

Once again, Globe Asiatique and its partner the Pag-IBIG Fund, has just set a trend in housing provision. They have given the word "commitment" another meaning by going the extra mile in assuring that its target market shall get more than it bargained for—luxury and convenience at the easiest terms.

Congratulations to Globe Asiatique.

SECRETARY MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council



I COMMEND the efforts of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation to help our hard-working employees acquire not merely decent and affordable shelter, but more so, of their commitment to give the mid-level market the opportunity to live in comfort, security and luxury.

The same commendation goes to the Pag-IBIG Fund, who has helped paved the way for private developers like Globe Asiatique to embark in projects like Chateau Valenzuela, which when fully completed, shall serve as a standing proof of how simple lives could be renewed and invigorated through the strong alliance of government and the private sector.

I foresee Chateau Valenzuela changing the landscape of Valenzuela City and setting a trend in housing development that is market driven and strongly conscious of the needs of middle-income earners.

Again, my sincere congratulations to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on its newest venture—Chateau Valenzuela.

AMADO BAGATISING
Vice Chairman and OIC
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council



Congratulations to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on its latest project, the Chateau Valenzuela. With a staggering housing backlog to fill, the efforts of Globe Asiatique in developing a condo-village that would shelter hundreds of families, is definitely a boost to the housing program.

But more so, we, at Pag-IBIG Fund have always admired the commitment of Globe Asiatique in providing quality homes and all its accompanying amenities, minus the expected exorbitant cost. Indeed, Globe Asiatique has given our middle-income families the opportunity to enjoy the luxuries of high-class living at a price within their reach.

Given our mandate in providing homes to the Filipino families, we have always tried to go a step further than merely providing a roof over their heads. Pag-IBIG, like our partner Globe Asiatique, has always aspired for quality at low cost.

More power to the men and women of Globe Asiatique!

ATTY. ROMERO S. QUIMBO
President and CEO
Pag-IBIG Fund



Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation takes pride on its newest venture—Chateau Valenzuela, a condo-village project composed of 18 six-storey buildings, that is destined to change and invigorate the landscape of Valenzuela City and the lifestyle of its future residents.

Globe Asiatique has deep respect on the potential and strength of the mid-level market, yet strongly conscious of their needs and rights as buyers and future homeowners. Thus, we have always strived to give them the extra perks that normally would have been denied them. And we stand firm and committed on this corporate principle to build communities that we ourselves would live in.

For all these efforts, we give credit to the support of the Pag-IBIG Fund and HUDCC, without whom it would be impossible for private developers like us to develop affordable and quality projects like Chateau Valenzuela—a standing testimony of what could be achieved when government and the private sector join hands to revitalize the housing industry.

DELFIN LEE
President and Chairman
Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation

MID-INCOME homeowners (or soon-to-be homeowners) now have a shot of experiencing the high-end lifestyle in one of the country's fast-growing districts. Soon to rise in the heart of Valenzuela City is Chateau Valenzuela, condominium village (condo-village) that is expected to change the lifestyle of its residents.

Chateau Valenzuela, the latest venture of Globe Asiatique (G.A.) Realty Holdings Corporation, is set to establish the city as one of the prime residential locations in the future. The project is located at P. Gregorio St., Brgy. Lingunan, and is just a mere 3 kilometers away from the Malinta Interchange.

"Now is the time to buy a home," said Delfin Lee, president and chairman of Globe Asiatique, and the brains behind the successful and thriving socialized housing projects in the country today. Keenly adept in reading the market's needs, Lee assures his potential homebuyers that Chateau Valenzuela shall possess that distinct image and "feel" which has become his project's trademark-quality living at lesser cost. All G.A. projects boast of all the amenities of a first-class subdivision.

"We believe that the mid-income earners are the only active market for real estate today. And as such they deserve their mon-

building six-story high and houses a total of 84 units each. The are three types of units—the Scandinavian, the European, and the Mediterranean unit. Over-all the village carries a Mediterranean-inspired design.

The Scandinavian is a 22-sq. m., one-bedroom unit, complete with living and dining areas, a kitchen, and a toilet and bath. The Mediterranean unit, also contains one bedroom but is bigger by 2 sq. m. Finally, the European, which is the largest unit at 30 sq. m. has two bedrooms.

All three types of units are available in all 18 buildings.

Globe Asiatique, recipient of the "Kabalikat sa Pabahay Award 2003" as the Leading Developer in Socialized Housing, "It's like designing a high-end environment in an affordable housing project," said Lee.

The condo-village comes with its own clubhouse, basketball court, playground, a swimming pool with cabana-type gazebos, and function rooms ideal for community meetings and other events. Electrical, phone, and cable lines are placed underground. It also boasts of wider roads, beautifully designed landscapes, and state-of-the-art streetlamps.

Security is on top of Globe Asiatique's concerns, with a 24-hour guarded entrance gate and roving guards around and within the



GLOBE Asiatique president and chairman Delfin Lee receives the Kabalik sa Pabahay Award 2003 as the Leading Developer in socialized housing from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thus, for a unit costing P650,000, for instance, Pag-IBIG members can borrow up to P500,000 which is payable in 25 years at 10-percent interest annually.

"So with the P500,000 covered by Pag-IBIG, the buyer only has to work on paying the equity of P150,000 more or less. So borrowers who want a longer payment term of equity may choose a unit in the building still ongoing construction. We have the timetable of delivery dates or completion of the 18 buildings. So a longer payment term means

city," Lee explained.

Fully furnished (and even furnished)

With this easy and unique financing scheme, the units at Chateau Valenzuela are going fast. But the payment terms is only one of the attractions of Chateau Valenzuela.

"We believe in delivering our housing units fully finished. Our homeowners need not worry about putting-up partitions, or painting the walls, or putting tiles, or improving the flooring. What you see in our model units is exactly what you'll get. And be-



TAKE a peek into your future home.

ey's worth in terms of house design, the quality of materials used and over-all land development. But we at G.A. have always given them some extra 'perks,' to complete the image of the project, and eventually their overall lifestyle," says Lee.

Valenzuela has become highly urbanized over the years. It boasts of factories, commercial establishments, and high employment opportunities. But Lee noticed the lack of ideal residential sites that would cater to the middle-income earners.

Realizing that building single-detached units would not be feasible in the city, G.A. thought of putting up medium-rise buildings which has become the trend in housing development in most urban areas today.

"We thought that each unit must be sold in less than P1 million," Lee said. "And so we came up with units selling at P650,000 and P900,000."

Chateau Valenzuela is an 18-building condo-village, with each

buildings.

Financing scheme

Interested buyers need not worry about paying for the house of their dreams because Globe Asiatique's housing packages may be availed of through Pag-IBIG Fund. "This is in terms of the end-user financing," explains Lee. For non-Pag-IBIG members, Globe Asiatique has offered their assistance for immediate membership and eligibility to avail of a housing loan.

"Pag-IBIG has made it very easy for everyone to qualify for a loan. All you have to do is fill up a membership form, which we will provide you; pay in lump sum the equivalent of 24 monthly contributions, which is around P4,800, which we will pay for you at Pag-IBIG then give you back your receipt; and immediately you're qualified for a housing loan. It's that convenient. And because we have a Buy-Back Agreement with Pag-IBIG, your loan is considered approved. It's that convenient," says Lee.

lower monthly installments, at no interest," says Lee.

Still, most mid-income families don't have P150,000 saved up. So considering that, Globe Asiatique decided to cut into two-part payments, first is the P90,000, which the buyer pays to G.A. on a monthly basis, until his unit is fully completed, after which the mortgage is turnover to Pag-IBIG. At this point, the remaining P60,000 of the P150,000 equity shall be paid for the next two years, together with the buyer-borrower's monthly amortization to Pag-IBIG.

"In a nutshell the buyer will pay for all P7,800 for a take-out. At this time, he can already move-in to the unit that he bought. Now after two years, he would have fully settled his equity, and from then on would only be paying about P5,300 as his monthly amortization to Pag-IBIG. The going rental rate of a decent apartment unit located in the

cause Globe Asiatique has a reputation to maintain, we always try to deliver our housing packages finished in style," Lee said.

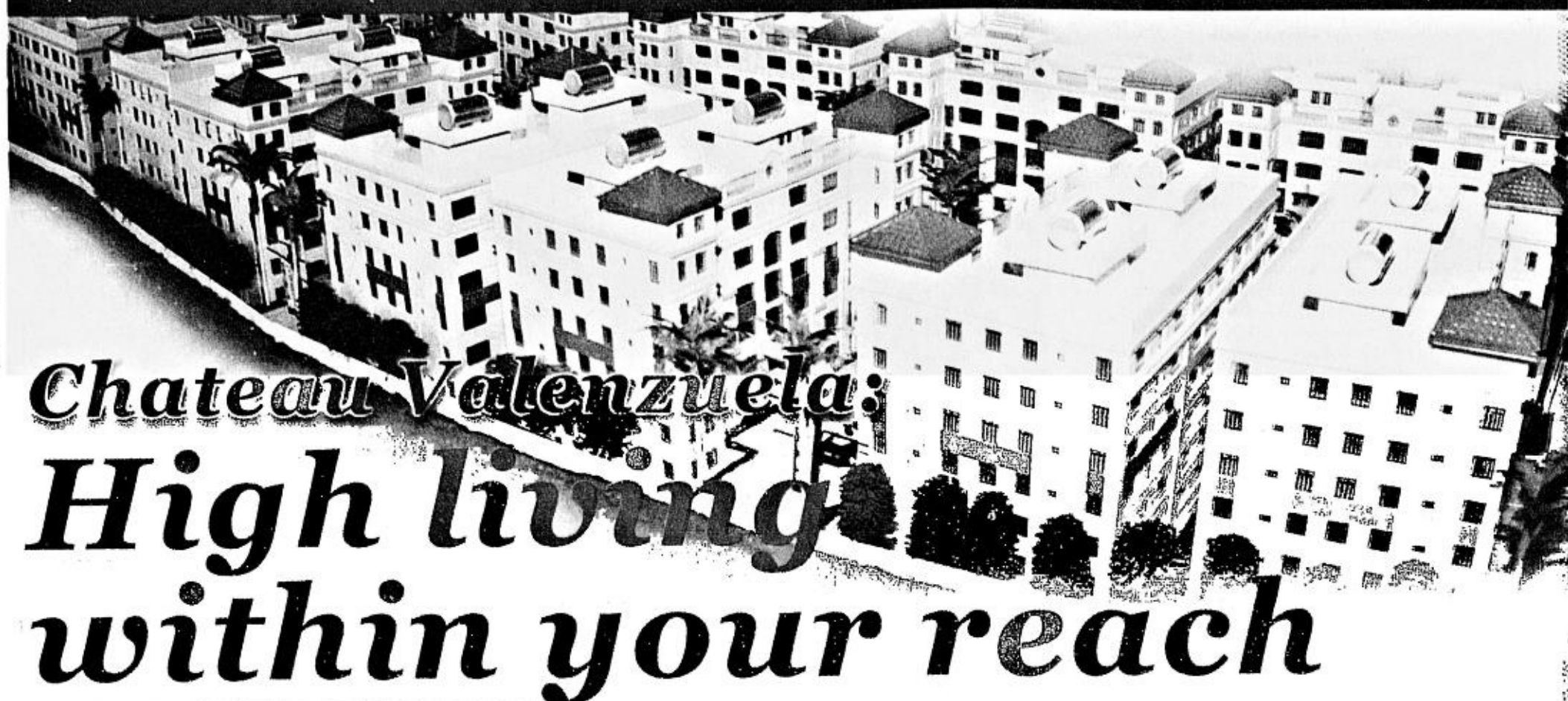
Still, going a step further, G.A. offers to furnish the units should the buyer opt to. The 14 model units now ready for viewing at the first building features various designs and themes.

"If they want our assistance, we can furnish the units for them, at a cost which they can pay on installment basis together with their equity payment. So after the unit has been completed, all they have to do is bring in their clothes, and they're ready to enjoy their new home."

"We don't mind shouldering the costs of the extra amenities that we put into our projects. At the end of the day, we know that we've given our buyers what they deserve and in the long run we've made countless new and satisfied friends. That's good enough for us," concludes Lee. Marler D. Salazar

For more inquiries, call 292-8888.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GLOBE ASIATIQUE
REALTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION

Chateau Valenzuela: High living within your reach

Messages

I CONVEY my warmest greetings to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on the grand launch of Chateau Valenzuela.

The efforts to redefine the lifestyle of an important sector of our society, the middle-working class, are commendable. As we move ahead in uniting and developing our country, I join the Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation and the Pag-IBIG Fund, its partner in this housing venture, to march with me towards path of progress. I encourage you to sustain your laudable undertakings. Your dedication and valuable service to the Filipino people will always be a source of inspiration and hope to those whose lives you have touched.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines



GREETINGS to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on the grand opening of Chateau Valenzuela.

It would be impossible to talk about this housing venture without mentioning the most important feature of Globe Asiatique's Chateau Valenzuela—luxury and first-class amenities at the most affordable price and its easy financing scheme. With the middle-income earners as its target market, we foresee a radical change in the make-up of the working class as it enters the realm of upscale living, as only Globe Asiatique could do it.

Once again, Globe Asiatique and its partner the Pag-IBIG Fund, has just set a trend in housing provision. They have given the word "commitment" another meaning by going the extra mile in assuring that its target market shall get more than it bargained for—luxury and convenience at the easiest terms.

Congratulations to Globe Asiatique.

SECRETARY MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Chairman
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council



I COMMENT the efforts of Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation to help our hard-working employees acquire not merely decent and affordable shelter, but more so, of their commitment to give the mid-level market the opportunity to live in comfort, security and luxury.

The same commendation goes to the Pag-IBIG Fund, who has helped paved the way for private developers like Globe Asiatique to embark in projects like Chateau Valenzuela, which when fully completed, shall serve as a standing proof of how simple lives could be renewed and invigorated through the strong alliance of government and the private sector.

I foresee Chateau Valenzuela changing the landscape of Valenzuela City and setting a trend in housing development that is market driven and strongly conscious of the needs of middle-income earners.

Again, my sincere congratulations to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on its newest venture—Chateau Valenzuela.

AMADO BAGATISING
Vice Chairman and OIC
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council



Congratulations to Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation on its latest project, the Chateau Valenzuela. With a staggering housing backlog to fill, the efforts of Globe Asiatique in developing a condo-village that would shelter hundreds of families, is definitely a boost to the housing program.

But more so, we, at Pag-IBIG Fund have always admired the commitment of Globe Asiatique in providing quality homes and all its accompanying amenities, minus the expected exorbitant cost. Indeed, Globe Asiatique has given our middle-income families the opportunity to enjoy the luxuries of high-class living at a price within their reach.

Given our mandate in providing homes to the Filipino families, we have always tried to go a step further than merely providing a roof over their heads. Pag-IBIG, like our partner Globe Asiatique, has always aspired for quality at low cost.

More power to the men and women of Globe Asiatique!

ATTY. ROMERO S. QUIMBO
President and CEO
Pag-IBIG Fund



Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation takes pride on its newest venture—Chateau Valenzuela, a condo-village project composed of 18 six-story buildings, that is destined to change and invigorate the landscape of Valenzuela City and the lifestyle of its future residents.

Globe Asiatique has deep respect on the potential and strength of the mid-level market, yet strongly conscious of their needs and rights as buyers and future homeowners. Thus, we have always strived to give them the extra perks that normally would have been denied them. And we stand firm and committed on this corporate principle to build communities that we ourselves would live in.

For all these efforts, we give credit to the support of the Pag-IBIG Fund and HUDCC, without whom it would be impossible for private developers like us to develop affordable and quality projects like Chateau Valenzuela—a standing testimony of what could be achieved when government and the private sector join hands to revitalize the housing industry.

DELFIN LEE
President and Chairman
Globe Asiatique Realty Holdings Corporation

GRAND LAUNCH TONIGHT

MID-INCOME homeowners (or soon-to-be homeowners) now have a shot of experiencing the high-end lifestyle in one of the country's fast-growing districts. Soon to rise in the heart of Valenzuela City is Chateau Valenzuela, condominium village (condo-village) that is expected to change the lifestyle of its residents.

Chateau Valenzuela, the latest venture of Globe Asiatique (G.A.) Realty Holdings Corporation, is set to establish the city as one of the prime residential locations in the future. The project is located at P. Gregorio St., Brgy. Lingunan, and is just a mere 3 kilometers away from the Malinta Interchange.

"Now is the time to buy a home," said Delfin Lee, president and chairman of Globe Asiatique, and the brains behind the successful and thriving socialized housing projects in the country today. Keenly adept in reading the market's needs, Lee assures his potential homebuyers that Chateau Valenzuela shall possess that distinct image and "feel" which has become his project's trademark-quality living at lesser cost. All G.A. projects boast of all the amenities of a first-class subdivision.

"We believe that the mid-income earners are the only active market for real estate today. And as such they deserve their mon-

building six-story high and houses a total of 84 units each. The are three types of units—the Scandinavian, the European, and the Mediterranean unit. Over-all the village carries a Mediterranean-inspired design.

The Scandinavian is a 22-sq. m., one-bedroom unit, complete with living and dining areas, a kitchen, and a toilet and bath. The Mediterranean unit, also contains one bedroom but is bigger by 2 sq. m. Finally, the European, which is the largest unit at 30 sq. m. has two bedrooms.

All three types of units are available in all 18 buildings.

Globe Asiatique, recipient of the "Kabalik sa Pabahay Award 2003" as the Leading Developer in Socialized Housing, "It's like designing a high-end environment in an affordable housing project," said Lee.

The condo-village comes with its own clubhouse, basketball court, playground, a swimming pool with cabana-type gazebos, and function rooms ideal for community meetings and other events. Electrical, phone, and cable lines are placed underground. It also boasts of wider roads, beautifully designed landscapes, and state-of-the-art streetlamps.

Security is on top of Globe Asiatique's concerns, with a 24-hour guarded entrance gate and roving guards around and within the



GLOBE Asiatique president and chairman Delfin Lee receives the Kabalik sa Pabahay Award 2003 as the Leading Developer in socialized housing from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Thus, for a unit costing P650,000, for instance, Pag-IBIG members can borrow up to P500,000 which is payable in 25 years at 10-percent interest annually.

"So with the P500,000 covered by Pag-IBIG, the buyer only has to work on paying the equity of P150,000 more or less. So borrowers who want a longer payment term of equity may choose a unit in the building still ongoing construction. We have the timetable of delivery dates or completion of the 18 buildings. So a longer payment term means

city," Lee explained. Fully furnished (and even furnished)

With this easy and unique financing scheme, the units at Chateau Valenzuela are going fast. But the payment terms is only one of the attractions of Chateau Valenzuela.

"We believe in delivering our housing units fully finished. Our homeowners need not worry about putting-up partitions, or painting the walls, or putting tiles, or improving the flooring. What you see in our model units is exactly what you'll get. And be-



TAKE a peek into your future home.

ey's worth in terms of house design, the quality of materials used and over-all land development. But we at G.A. have always given them some extra "perks," to complete the image of the project, and eventually their overall lifestyle," says Lee.

Valenzuela has become highly urbanized over the years. It boasts of factories, commercial establishments, and high employment opportunities. But Lee noticed the lack of ideal residential sites that would cater to the middle-income earners.

Realizing that building single-detached units would not be feasible in the city, G.A. thought of putting up medium-rise buildings which has become the trend in housing development in most urban areas today.

"We thought that each unit must be sold in less than P1 million," Lee said. "And so we came up with units selling at P650,000 and P900,000."

Chateau Valenzuela is an 18-building condo-village, with each

buildings.

Financing scheme

Interested buyers need not worry about paying for the house of their dreams because Globe Asiatique's housing packages may be availed of through Pag-IBIG Fund. "This is in terms of the end-user financing," explains Lee. For non-Pag-IBIG members, Globe Asiatique has offered their assistance for immediate membership and eligibility to avail of a housing loan.

"Pag-IBIG has made it very easy for everyone to qualify for a loan. All you have to do is fill up a membership form, which we will provide you; pay in lump sum the equivalent of 24 monthly contributions, which is around P4,800, which we will pay for you at Pag-IBIG then give you back your receipt; and immediately you're qualified for a housing loan. It's that convenient. And because we have a Buy-Back Agreement with Pag-IBIG, your loan is considered approved. It's that convenient," says Lee.

lower monthly installments, at no interest," says Lee.

Still, most mid-income families don't have P150,000 saved up. So considering that, Globe Asiatique decided to cut into two-part payments, first is the P90,000, which the buyer pays to G.A. on a monthly basis, until his unit is fully completed, after which the mortgage is turnover to Pag-IBIG. At this point, the remaining P60,000 of the P150,000 equity shall be paid for the next two years, together with the buyer-borrower's monthly amortization to Pag-IBIG.

"In a nutshell, the buyer will pay initially around P7,800 for the unit. By this time, he can already move-in to the unit that he bought. Now after two years, he would have fully settled his equity, and from then on would only be paying about P5,300 as his monthly amortization to Pag-IBIG. The going rental rates of a decent apartment unit located in the

cause Globe Asiatique has a reputation to maintain, we always try to deliver our housing packages finished in style," Lee said.

Still, going a step further, G.A. offers to furnish the units should the buyer opt to. The 14 model units now ready for viewing at the first building features various designs and themes.

"If they want our assistance, we can furnish the units for them, at a cost which they can pay on installment basis together with their equity payment. So after the unit has been completed, all they have to do is bring in their clothes, and they're ready to enjoy their new home."

"We don't mind shouldering the costs of the extra amenities that we put into our projects. At the end of the day, we know that we've given our buyers what they deserve and in the long run we've made countless new and satisfied friends. That's good enough for us," concludes Lee. Marlet D. Salazar

For more inquiries, call 292-8888.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANO
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
News Editor ARTEMIO T. ENGRACIA JR. • **Chief, News Day Desk** NILO B. PAUROM
Opinion Editor JORGE V. ARUTA
National Editor PERGENTINO B. BANDAYREL JR.
City Editor GERRY LIRIO
Senior Desk Editor ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO
Editorial Consultant AMANDO DORONILA
Chief Photographer ERNIE U. SARMIENTO
Art & Design Director LYNETT A. VILLARIBA
Board Chairman MARIXI R. PRIETO
President ALEXANDRA PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
Senior Vice President for Corporate Services DAVID O. VALDES
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. OLARTE
AVP for Circulation GLORIA P. LARDIZABAL

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of the Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without its prior written permission.

Appalling

FROM THE TIME the Supreme Court was completely Filipinized in 1935, presidents have paid keen attention to the selection and appointment of justices. It helped that most of our presidents were lawyers, and lawyers always have pretensions to scholarship and a love of the "pure" study and application of the law. Presidents believed that after their administration they could find some kind of vindication and prestige in their choice of appointments.

Even Ferdinand Marcos, who did more than anyone before or since to debase and prostitute the legal profession, put great stock by his choices for the Supreme Court. A number of his appointees became thorns in his side even when the Court as an institution turned into a gutless accomplice to martial law. After the Edsa Revolution, when President Aquino received the resignations of the entire Court and was thus able to appoint the entire bench, the Supreme Court shed its collaborationist past and has enjoyed, more or less, a newfound prestige and standing among the people.

Politics of the most cynical kind may permeate the other two branches of government, but presidents and congresses have tried to make politicking stop at the doorstep of the Court. While it is true judicial appointments have always been colored by political considerations, in appointments to the Supreme Court the political consideration has usually consisted of rewarding political allies and friends who had too much of integrity or intelligence to be of much use politically. Presidents have been content to prove that in the highest judicial appointments, at least, they can think and act as statesmen.

It is in view of this generally distinguished political tradition that the mess—and there is no other word for it—surrounding the appointment and withdrawal of the appointment, of President Macapagal-Arroyo's latest nominee to the Supreme Court becomes so appalling.

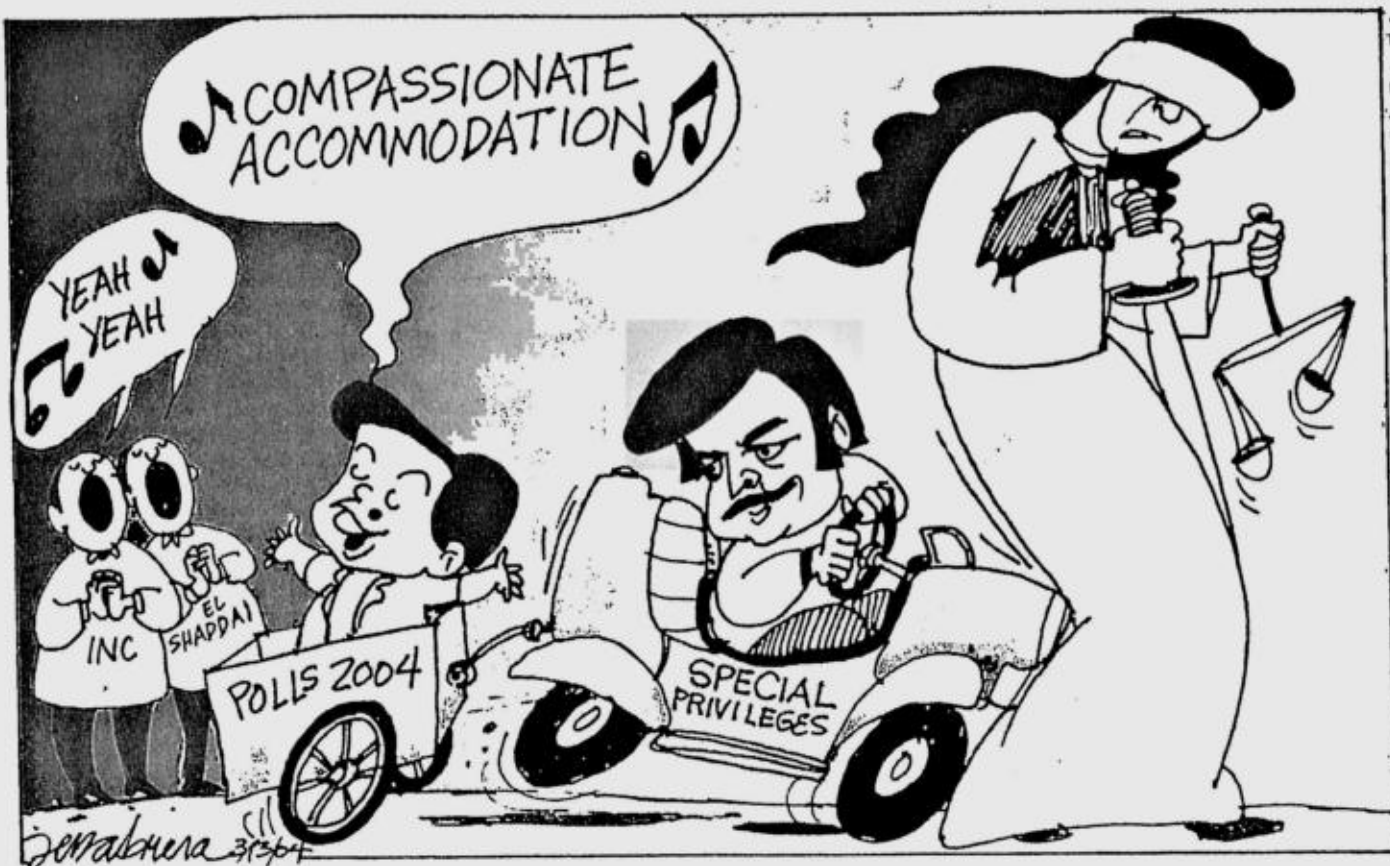
Last Feb. 10, the President appointed Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Minita Chico-Nazario to the Supreme Court. On March 8, the Palace confirmed that the appointment had been withdrawn. This is the first time an appointment to the Court has been taken back, the first time in 12 administrations. What is more, the circumstances surrounding the appointment and its withdrawal remain mired in controversy.

The appointment of a justice to the Supreme Court requires no congressional approval. The potential nominees are limited to a list submitted to the President by the Judicial and Bar Council. It is noteworthy that in previous presidencies, when appointments to the Court required congressional approval, presidents never saw or found any reason to withdraw their nominations, presumably because only those of sufficient reputation and prestige were considered. Yet in a supposedly non-partisan selection process, an appointment was made and then withdrawn with the most reprehensible partisan considerations being whispered about as the reason.

The travails of Nazario point to a larger defect, or shortcoming, of the present dispensation, which is the underwhelming nature of so many of its appointments to crucial positions. We need only recall the manner in which Joseph Estrada's presidency was given a boost by his decision to name Hilario Davide Jr. as Andres Narvasa's successor, much as Estrada may regret that decision now. We can only consider how posterity will view this "first" under the Macapagal administration.

We might add that an appointment to the Supreme Court is considered the culmination of a lawyer's career. Thus, the withdrawal of such an appointment was not done in the past, because it would disgrace the nominee. The withdrawal of an appointment to the Court cannot be viewed in the same light as the withdrawal of an appointment to the Cabinet, for example. The latter is widely understood to be subject to the vagaries of the most vulgar kind of politics; the former is meant to uphold and enhance the majesty of the law.

Whether it is intended or not, the withdrawal of Nazario's appointment does not speak well of the President, Nazario and the justice system. It sends the signal that everything is colored by political considerations. It leaves the message that institutions such as the Sandiganbayan are at the mercy of the competency of particular judges, because a judge cannot move on without leaving things out of kilter. And it strengthens the suspicion that the judgment of the President when it comes to crucial appointments is neither sound, nor courageous, nor imbued with the vision required of statesmanship.



A definition of terms

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



THE CURRENT election campaign has mangled the meaning of certain terms to suit the ends of the candidates. It is necessary to re-define these terms to put them in proper non-partisan perspective.

For example, President Macapagal-Arroyo who had earlier supported (or actually ordered?) Joseph Estrada's detention at his rest house in Tanay, Rizal, described it as "compassionate" and "decent treatment" of a former President of the Philippines. Others would condemn it as "discriminatory" and "undue favoritism" for an accused non-bailable capital offender.

A criminal complaint has been filed against GMA and several of her subordinates for the questionable privileges accorded Estrada, but the unfazed President says she "welcomes" it. She couldn't care less because she knows that an incumbent impeachable officer can be removed only through impeachment.

For his part, Fernando Poe Jr. said in a recent conference with business executives that what was needed of a leader, meaning one like him, was "heart, not brains," thereby subordinating intelligence to love for the people. Not many have subscribed to this view except those from the largely uneducated masses, especially the bakya crowd, who share Poe's limited learning.

In preferring heart to brains, Poe has implicitly admitted that he has the first but not the second. In excluding brains as a qualification for the highest office in the land, he has not only cheapened the position he seeks but also downgraded his candidacy. He might have safely suggested that what was needed for the presidency was "heart and brains." But this could not be expected of the pistol-packing cowboy whose vocabulary is not his best asset.

The dashing action hero's refusal to face his rivals in a debate has been ridiculed as "cowardly" and "evasive," obviously because he does not have the intellect to argue with his op-

ponents. Poe himself says he is "a man of action, not words," and that a debate would be "divisive." He had originally demanded that it be held in the slums but later backed out when the other candidates agreed.

Poe shuns the debate for being divisive which it actually is for expounding divergent views. But more than divisive, it is instructive for revealing to the electorate the competence of the debaters and the merits of their respective positions. He obviously does not want to participate in this contest because of the meagerness of his opinions and his manner of expressing them.

There is no question that Poe is not a man of words because he usually mumbles his views only in monosyllables. Moreover, he is able to evade ambush interviews by pleading a previous appointment. His finally announced political platform hardly fits his persona because it contains high-sounding words he must never have used before.

The high school dropout who would be President of the Philippines vows to, among other objectives, "re-orient the government's policy on globalization to focus on pushing for expanded markets for our products and protecting vulnerable sectors from unfair competition." He also spoke of a "de-politicized environment" for the energy sector.

His professed objective of unifying the people is another mirage. His view is that if he is elected President of the Philippines the whole nation will rally behind him in a unanimous endeavor to help him succeed. That is not a

dream but a nightmare. The electorate is divided right now between his mindless supporters and the conscientious citizens who do not want another actor in Malacañang.

The latter are not likely to surrender to the bakya crowd if its hero wins. The more likely scenario is that efforts shall begin from day one of his term to impeach and remove him as another blemish on our country's history.

(Incidentally, I was listening to Erap on TV last Monday when he defended his visits to his rest house in Tanay, and what impressed me was the way he talked in English for quite a while without committing a single grammatical error. Similar demonstration would be hurtful to his friend FPJ, who cannot speak English correctly and that long.)

Coming back to Erap's detention privileges, "compassionate" means sympathetic, kind, pitying, tender-hearted, etc., and I do not think it should apply to a person accused of plunder who has been denied bail because evidence of his guilt is strong. The mere fact that he used to be President of the Philippines does not entitle him to the extraordinary treatment he has been receiving from a dotting government. "Compassion" does not mean "undue favoritism."

His special detention at Camp Capinpin, away from other detention prisoners also accused of serious crimes, should be concession enough for his former status. Two years ago, he was allowed to consult a faith healer in Caloocan, and a 15-car convoy, a helicopter and 1,000 soldiers and policemen were assigned to protect him, at a total cost of half a million pesos to the taxpayers. His present treatment shows that Joseph Estrada is still the government's favorite prisoner.

At any rate, the place of Estrada's detention as a non-bailable detention prisoner accused of the capital crime of plunder should be determined by the Sandiganbayan and not by any executive official, even the highest.

Bush's slide

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



THERE is always something to be learned from the experiences of others. The following should be instructive.

It is widely accepted, and there is strong empirical basis for it, that in the United States, there is a strong link between an incumbent's reelection and the state of unemployment and the economy during an election year. Thus, incumbents won another term when the economy was growing strongly and unemployment was low (as in 1964, 1972, 1984, 1996), but were kicked out during periods of economic contraction and high unemployment (e.g., 1932, 1960, 1980, 1992).

Which is probably why US President George W. Bush is now trailing Democratic challenger John Kerry in a recent poll commissioned by the Washington Post and ABC, one of the three major networks in the United States. The telephone poll from March 4 to 7 (1,202 respondents with a margin of error of + or - 3 percent) showed that if elections were to be held at the time, Bush would get 44 percent of the vote compared to Kerry's 53 percent.

It is not hard to see why. The poll showed that 36 percent of the voters considered the economy and jobs to be the single most important issue this year (terrorism was a distant second—17 percent of the voters). Combine that with recent news reports that the American economy created only 21,000 jobs last month (against a labor force of close to 190 million)—amounting to what analysts called a jobless recovery, as they noted that 372,000 people had left the labor force probably because they had lost hope of finding jobs, and that 760,000 people receiving unemployment compensation were no longer eligible because they had exceeded the time limits imposed by Republican legislation. Throw in the dismay over a federal budget deficit (Bush received a net disapproval rating of 30 percent on this issue) and the fears about lack of funds for Social Security payments to retirees, and the picture becomes crystal clear.

On top of that, the preponderant opinion of

American voters has turned to disapproval on Bush's handling of Iraq: 46 percent approve and 53 percent disapprove (which, even with the margin of error, is still statistically significant). This reversal of public opinion is noteworthy. Less than a year ago, approval of Bush's handling of Iraq was an overwhelming 75 percent, compared to disapproval of 22 percent.

Actually, the rest of the poll results should cause Bush and his handlers discomfort, if not panic. Three years ago, he started with 55 percent of the voters approving the way he handled his job as president, giving him the benefit of the doubt, with 23 percent disapproving and 22 percent giving no opinion—a net approval rating of 32 percent. His approval ratings peaked a month after 9/11 at 92 percent, as everyone rallied around the flag. There have been peaks and troughs since, but from the start of this year, there has been a steady deterioration, with Bush's net approval rating going down from 18 percent to 2 percent (not significantly different from zero) in the latest poll.

His "job" as president was then decomposed into 12 separate aspects (e.g., economy, job creation, health, education), and he had net approval ratings in only four of them, two of which were not significantly different from zero. The two areas where he enjoyed large approvals were in the campaign against terrorism and in the protection of Americans' constitutional rights and freedoms.

In another poll question, the same 12 separate aspects of the president's job were enumerated, and voters were asked who they trusted more to do a better job on each—Bush

or Kerry. The latter won hands down in eight areas (the economy, education, social security, health insurance, taxes, creating jobs, prescriptions for the elderly and the federal budget deficit). There was a statistical tie in three areas (the Iraqi situation, same-sex marriage, and protecting Americans' constitutional rights and freedoms). Bush was trusted significantly more in one: the US campaign against terrorism.

The poll answers also revealed that the majority of Americans (60 percent) think that the state of the economy is not so good or poor; that only 17 percent thought that most Americans were better off financially now than when Bush became president (43 percent thought that they were worse off); that 57 percent thought that the nation should be set in a new direction than where Bush is taking it; two-thirds feel that Bush cares more about protecting the interest of big business and corporations than that of the ordinary people (almost the opposite is thought of Kerry). A strong indictment of the Bush administration.

But the prospects for Bush are not all that gloomy. Because it turns out that if Ralph Nader's (the consumer advocate) name is added to the list of candidates that the voters can choose from, Kerry's lead over Bush narrows down to a statistical tie (48 percent versus 44 percent among registered voters). Nader's entry came into Kerry, and not into Bush. And that is because, as the pollsters determined, 9 out of 10 of Bush's votes are die-hards compared to only 4 out of 10 for Kerry, with the other six voting for him because they are against Bush. The lesson there being that these may be won back to Bush.

Still and all, it would seem that, at this point, the only sure thing that will allow Bush to forge ahead, if he cannot solve the jobless recovery problem of the economy or think of a way to solve his deficit problem, is for another occurrence that will cause the American people to rally around the flag again. But God forbid that should happen.

Dutiful husband

POLITICAL TIDBITS

**Belinda
Olivares-Cunanan**



nya." Like my wife and my mother, I have great faith in the power of prayer."

Cecile added, "Since it's now Lent, we realize that *kahit anong kalbaryo ang dinadaan namin, meron ding pagkabuhay*." Like MacArthur, I shall return, she said, but Sonny insists that she stay with friends in New York for a while to rest and leave the worries of the campaign to him. "Having a wife like Cecile is *swerte, ngunit mahirap din*," he mused, to their kids' and their friends' amusement, for surely that's the understatement of the year. Yet somewhere in heaven, there must be a big reward for husbands who take time out to care for seriously ailing wives, even of the most *pakialamera* variety. That's what marriage is all about.

At the well-attended 9th anniversary of the Philippine Export Zone Authority last Thursday evening at the lovely Father Blanco's Garden in Intramuros, Peza's indefatigable director general Lilia B. de Lima paid tribute to the many locators who have helped develop the country's economic zones and industrial and technical parks, and given tens of thousands of technical jobs to Filipinos. The progress of these ecozones and techno parks despite the sluggish economy deserves a separate column. But suffice it to say that the whispers that evening was how foreign investors were quite nervous over the possibility that FPJ might come out as president. They clearly see that he cannot handle the job. A Filipino executive who deals directly with foreign investors told me that they are watching developments, and some may be ready to pull out if FPJ wins. This is a reality that should move every thinking Filipino to enlighten the *masa* not to vote for FPJ.

Women of diversity

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

effectively represent the party in the legislature. Number four nominee La Rainne Abad-Sarmiento is a long-time feminist activist and doctoral candidate in public administration. A former barangay chair, she now works with the Office of Gender Affairs of the Quezon City government, seeking to mainstream gender concerns in the city's programs.

Kala Pulido Constantino is executive director of Kalakasan, an NGO that provides direct services to women survivors of violence, including counseling through a telephone hotline. Kalakasan has also done advocacy campaigns, especially with the recently-passed Violence against Women and their Children Law and on reproductive health issues, especially for young people.

So there's the Abanse! Pinay lineup, about as representative a group of women as you can get, covering the country's major geographical and regional groupings (though only quite by accident!), cutting across the age spectrum, and reflecting the diversity of women's identities, concerns, skills and vocations. But all of them united, of course, in their commitment to the uplift of women.

ON A RECENT visit to Baguio, I had the pleasure of addressing graduating students of the Baguio Colleges Foundation University during their career orientation day.

Though not all of them were mass communications graduates, the students seemed quite interested in a career in the media and in communications, an indication perhaps of how pervasive and influential the media have become here.

Baguio Colleges Foundation won accreditation

INDEPENDENT senatorial candidate Heherson Alvarez met the press last Friday noon, surrounded by his wife Cecile and their two children born in exile, Hexilon, 28 and Herxilia, 23, to announce that he is taking a "brief leave of absence" from the campaign to answer the call of duty as a husband. He is flying this weekend to take Cecile to New York's Sloan Kettering Cancer Institute for a much-delayed check-up and confinement. Cecile, my radio partner in Radyo Balintataw, lost consciousness while standing in for Sonny in his radio program last Sunday morning and was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital where she was subjected to thorough exams for cancer, high blood pressure and diabetes.

Cecile's year-and-a-half-long battle with breast cancer was earlier kept in check so that last year she was already taken off of her chemotherapy treatment. Doubtless their disappointment over Sonny's exclusion from the K-4 senatorial lineup affected her. Part of the tension came from his decision to run as an independent candidate for the Senate, fighting for the same principles he espoused when he initiated the impeachment of President Estrada in November 2000. Resisting the enticements of the FPJ and Roco camps to join them, his stand on principles was hailed by his Lakas allies who promised to carry him. But it was tough on his worrier wife who lost sleep over the lack of logistics and machinery to back him up.

Now Alvarez stands at the crossroads. "I have always taken the path less traveled and stood for principles way back from the days of the 1971 Constitutional Convention up to now," he told the press conference. "But even if I have been a risk-taker in my political career, I can never gamble with my wife's life." Cecile takes priority.

After the press conference, I queried him privately about his plans. He said that if the tests will show that her illness has gotten worse, then he will forego his campaign and devote his time to caring for his wife. But if her condition is stable, he will return to resume his campaign, "upang magkaroon ng buhay ang aking pag-iisa sa kampa-

YASMIN Busan-Lao is the third nominee of Abanse! Pinay, the women's party-list group.

A faculty member of the Mindanao State University, Yasmin has joined the growing league of Muslim women scholars around the world studying the teachings of the Koran in an attempt to relate them to the challenges that women face in today's changing world.

One of the results of Yasmin's studies is a handbook on gender sensitivity training for Filipino Muslim women, drawing from the Koran, religious teachings and the experiences and life lessons of real women to derive a curriculum that is rooted in scripture, sensitive to culture, and yet challenges traditional norms and expectations.

Yasmin herself embodies these goals. Apart from scholarship and teaching, she also founded an NGO that promotes social and economic development among impoverished communities in Muslim Mindanao, while at the same time remaining active in peace-building and promoting the role of women in the peace process.

Some years back, I asked her if she would consent to be nominated for an award that honors women achievers. "Not yet," she demurred. "Maybe if we're successful in our efforts to bring women into the peace negotiations, maybe then I will deserve to be nominated (for the award)."

That's the kind of person Yasmin is: focused on her mission of the moment and unwilling to accept honor and acclaim even when they are offered to her. I believe she will be quite an effective and powerful voice for women, for Muslims and for Mindanaos, and for the youth (she is still in her 30s) in Congress.

THE PARTY-LIST law requires a party-list group to submit the names of at least five nominees, even if a winning party is entitled to seat a maximum of three representatives. The reason for the two alternates is that, if at anytime any one of the three nominees is incapacitated, signs up with another party or does something against the principles of his or her party, then he or she can be replaced.

The two alternate nominees of Abanse! Pinay possess all the qualifications needed to

A peace package for candidates

WITH PEACE and order being the principal concern of every Filipino and foreigner living in the Philippines, national candidates and the political parties to which they belong should be quizzed on—and answer key questions relating to—the "maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty and property," as mandated by the Constitution.

To help voters choose candidates in the upcoming elections, it is not enough what the candidates tell the people. What is more important is that the people tell the candidates what they should do for the common good. What do we want to become?

We are "free," but we are far from safe. With or without the elections, not a day passes when a vicious murder, or massacre, or kidnapping is not registered in police blotters or reported by the media. This is not the kind of society we deserve. This is not the environment our Creator intended when He entrusted it to us to live and raise our children in.

Applying the principal-agent relationship, the principal (the voter) must tell the agent (the candidate) what kind of society he wants, where he wants to go and how to get there. The key questions relate to a "peace package" that seeks to promote respect of life and dignity of the human person, enhances the common good and remove conditions that give rise to crime.

Without the "peace package," our chances of reducing poverty and achieving the millennium development goals are greatly lessened. Peace and order is a precondition to sustainable development. No society can prosper in an atmosphere where public safety is in question. And under such a condition it is the poor that suffer most. As one noted author has said: "Peace without freedom is unthinkable; freedom without peace is impossible."

COMMENTARY

Nandy Pacheco

The "peace package" contains items from a list of aspirations of the Filipino people prepared by Kapatiran, a political movement for the common good. The list has been adopted as a political platform by the Alliance for the Common Good, a political party without candidates and is awaiting approval by the Commission on Elections.

Included in the "peace package" are proposals to control guns in public places; forbid the use of armed bodyguards by candidates except the president of the Philippines; enforce the law against heavily-tinted windows in motor vehicles; ban the export of guns and the import of high-powered guns for private use. It also proposes dismantling structures that glorify pornography, guns, the culture of death and violence, banning gun exhibits in malls and other public places; and promoting progressive disarmament in all countries through the United Nations.

The "peace package" also supports the destruction of confiscated guns or their conversion into useful tools; abolishing the death penalty; banning torture to extract confession; ending violence in schools and other institutions, as well as in sports where the main aim is to inflict violence on the opponent; forbidding the appointment of a former military officer as defense secretary; renaming the Department of National Defense as the Department of Peace; and promoting a "drug-free" Philippines.

The questions to be asked of the candidates include:

1. What kind of peace are you pursuing? Is it

The reason for the withdrawal of the appointment to the Supreme Court of Sandiganbayan Justice Minita Chico-Nazario remains a mystery, but there appears to be several. One was the criticism she reaped from the anti-graft court's decision to allow Estrada to leave for the US for medical reasons, which he eventually refused. There's also speculation in media and legal circles that the influential Villaraza Law Office objected to Nazario since it was allegedly campaigning for Deputy Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco, a Sigma Rho brod of The Firm's top honcho, Pancho Villaraza.

I don't know Velasco personally, but a small episode last year seems to put his sense of judgment into question. Reports say Velasco had organized a golf tournament for Supreme Court justices and lawyers from several leading Makati law firms, including The Firm. When Chief Justice Hilario Davide heard of the plan, he scuttled it. Which was only right, for many of those lawyers have cases before the Court and they cannot be seen fraternizing with the magistrates.

The question of a replacement for Nazario has become moot and academic as the ban on presidential appointments went into effect last Thursday. Thus, a new Supreme Court justice can only be named in July. Among the names submitted to the President by the Judicial and Bar Council to replace retired Justice Josue Bellosillo was that of UP Prof. Ruben Balane, who was among the four *amici curiae* tapped by the Court on the FPJ citizenship issue.

Balane is eminently qualified for the SC, for apart from being No. 2 in the bar exams, this ex-seminarian is known for his integrity and is thought to be the successor to the eminent Justice JBL Reyes as a formidable authority on civil law and a legal scholar. He also writes short stories and in fact, he has won a Palanca Award. Perhaps a "new Gloria," hopefully less political by then, could seriously consider him in July. And yes, banish The Firm to the farthest corner of the earth.

As a university in November last year. As Louee tells it, the entire community was taken by surprise when the visiting team from the Commission on Higher Education announced their decision to confer university status on BCF even before they left the campus grounds.

Founded by the Salvosa family, BCF University, by which it is known these days though several alternative names have been proposed, has established quite a reputation for providing quality education, as can be gleaned by the quality of their graduates. Lately, says Louee, BCF alumni have been landing in the "Top Ten" of professional exams. This, despite the fact that BCF has one of the lowest, if not the lowest, tuition rates among Baguio's educational institutions.

After my talk at BCF University, it was time to meet the Baguio media over lunch at Omai Khan, with Benguet Vice Gov. Edna Tabanda, chair of the Abanse! Pinay, Baguio-Benguet chapter, who is running for governor, present, as well as candidate for councilor Jeannie Lim. (I must apologize to Jeannie for saying that this is her fourth try for office in a previous column. Guess I was fed erroneous information.)

The open forum with the Baguio media, many of whose members are young and still brimming with enthusiasm for their calling, was quite lively and stimulating. Many thanks to Dianne Garcia, a BCF communications graduate who's a local TV personality and correspondent for the Manila Times, for moderating the forum, as well as the orientation session with the BCF students.

AT THE CLOSE of the press conference, INQUIRER photographer Toots Soberano gathered us for a group photo at the Rizal Park. The impish Toots made us all stand in front of the Rizal monument, the very spot, he said, where President Macapagal-Arroyo had declared that she was no longer running in this year's election.

Then it was off to Tuba, Benguet, on our way down to Manila, to greet the women who were celebrating International Women's Day at the elementary school. Many thanks to Councilor Jessie Alos for hosting us, and I wish her well in her run for mayor.

the peace of Christ, the peace based on love, justice, reconciliation, active nonviolence and progressive disarmament? Or is it the peace based on the principle of "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," the peace based on armament and might?

2. Do you accept the peace package in its entirety?

3. Are you willing to work individually and collectively for the implementation of the "peace package"?

4. Are you willing to work for a non-killing society?

Anybody sponsoring a political debate or symposium or dialogue is welcome to use the "peace package" and the above questions.

Formed as an antidote to the politics of personality, deception, hypocrisy, dishonesty, pay-off, patronage, immoral compromises, of guns, goons and gold, the Alliance for the Common Good stands on a platform which has clear, specific policy objectives—all aimed at enhancing the common good and promoting the politics of virtue and of duty.

The cultivation of virtue makes individuals happy, wise, courageous and competent. The result is a good person, a responsible citizen and a trusted leader. Without a virtuous people, society cannot function well. And without a virtuous society, people cannot realize their own or a common good. This is what the politics of virtue is all about.

Men individually are responsible for what they make of themselves but collectively they are responsible for the world in which they live. We need to revive the idea that small sacrifices by individuals can create large benefits for all of us. What is needed is a politics of duty.

Nandy Pacheco is president of the Gunless Society and Kapatiran.

Staying put

MY mother recently forwarded to me an e-mail she had received from one of her contemporaries. It was about an old man who was complaining that all his kids had left him because of the hopeless political situation in the Philippines. After reading that story one Thursday morning, I couldn't get it out of my mind.

I left my family when I was 21. I left to study in Europe, and not because I felt the political situation in our country was hopeless. That, however, is my reason for not going back.

I am not alone.

Many brilliant Filipino students in Europe share my opinion. As long as we can get a stable career opportunity here, even jobs that we don't like or jobs that we have not imagined doing because of our education, we will stay and live here in Europe.

It is not that life in Europe is perfect. I do not think the place is prettier than the Philippines. In fact, I always imagine myself lying under the sun on the white powdery sand of Boracay or trekking in Palawan. I did not even think going abroad was the best choice for me. My life in the Philippines was convenient and pleasant. I did not need to wash the dishes or clean the house or carry heavy shopping bags. I had a lot of free time for self-improvement, such as going to dance or art classes. There was someone to take care of me when I was sick, unlike out here where your neighbors will only show their concern when they start to smell your stinking corpse. But still, I do not want to go back, especially not in the next six years.

The reason is simple, and it can be expressed in three letters: FPJ

A friend from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs broke the news to me. "Hey, I read from Reuters that your next president will again be an actor," she said.

Please spare me. In behalf of the Filipino academics in Europe, please spare us.

I have experienced a similar embarrassment before. When all hell broke loose because of the Joseph Estrada scandal, Filipino students became the laughingstock in our university town.

And why shouldn't we be? We are considered the cream of the crop. All of us excel in our respective academic fields. We have recommendations from the best professors in Europe, and we have experienced working in well-respected international institutions. Having heads of state from show business is the ultimate irony for anyone who knows of the Filipinos' reputation for intelligence. While all of us are trying to show others how smart Filipinos are, many of our countrymen are making stupid choices.

I wonder what "Ang Panday" has in store for my beloved country. I try very hard to imagine some positive things, but I fail every time. We have been burnt before. We made the great mistake of electing Joseph Estrada as president, but it seems that Filipinos have not learned their lesson and they want to risk being burnt twice. How much more does someone have to endure in order to be convinced that an actor should never again sit as the chief executive? How many more of us should smell the stench of government corruption, lose jobs, be deprived of health and education and wallow in underdevelopment before we know this?

This is a plea to my compatriots: Help us maintain the Filipinos' reputation as a smart, clever and talented people, as we have been trying to show the world. As voters, we are the primary decision-makers. The upcoming election is our opportunity to shape our future, the future of our nation, the future of the generations to come. Let us not make the same stupid mistake again.

Pressia Jose Arifin, 24, is a consultant in the Communication Development Division of Unesco in Paris. She has a master's degree in international relations and a second master's in American studies from the Universität Tübingen in Germany.

Easy way to presidency

Katrina Fajardo

I ASKED my grandma whom is she going to vote for, and we both laughed. I really don't have to ask her, she just cannot resist Fernando Poe Jr.

Ever since I was a kid, Fridays were reserved for FPJ, or any night he's on television. Even my 7-year-old brother was captivated by his movies.

Who wouldn't vote for FPJ? Even kids are charmed by him. He is a great actor. He knows how to throw punches. He kicks butts. He is a hero.

A president doesn't need to learn how to laugh or cry. A president doesn't have to kick butts to protect the country. Should electing a hero not be our last resort? We need a hero to lead the country to progress. We really don't need someone who will save us from holdup men, kidnappers and all kinds of criminals. Leave that to Spiderman, Batman or Superman.

FPJ is kind. He is not a traditional politician. He doesn't want publicity. He wants peace for all of us.

Nobody can blame FPJ for wanting to run. I also want to be president. I want to save my countrymen.

We can trust FPJ. But the people around him, we cannot and should not trust.

I have already planned my career. I will become a singer and an actress. Then I'll run for councilor, then mayor, then governor and then senator. Then, of course, I will run for president.

When I was still a kid that seemed like an impossible dream. But now, all I have to do is win a singing contest and act in a lot of movies and gather a billion fans. Then I will surely become president.

Katrina Fajardo, 17, is a first year BA Sociology student at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

THEY SAID

Action

"I may no longer be around tomorrow but I will do everything I can. I will never be able to forgive myself knowing that I could have done something but did not do anything."

—Former President Corason Aquino speaking before student volunteers aiming for peaceful and credible elections

Right to leave the country

WHO are you to judge what Dr. Elmer Jacinto, or anyone else for that matter, wants to do with his life? What gives you the right to decide which is the moral or noble path to take? As detailed in your own editorial, Dr. Jacinto has gone through innumerable obstacles throughout his life. He grew up in a small town with no electricity so he had to study by candlelight. He had to rely on his own intelligence to get private educational scholarships. And now that all of his hard work has finally put him in a position to better his lot and that of his family's, you dare to criticize him for trying to claim what he rightfully deserves?

Dr. Jacinto has every right and every reason to leave. He is not a wealthy scion. He is not the son of newspaper owners and editors. While you were sleeping

soundly in your high-walled "villages," Dr. Jacinto's village was being brutalized by a gang of thugs (perhaps even the Abu Sayyaf). While you were traipsing around in ridiculous outfits at Manila's hippest parties, Dr. Jacinto spent a year in the Philippine General Hospital caring for the poorest of the poor. Long after you handed out your token donations, Dr. Jacinto was just starting another long day of working under the most horrendous conditions, sometimes shelling out even the last of his own meager resources to buy his patient's medicine.

This is what has become of our country of afflictions. Where the elite have the self-righteousness to put down a young man from a modest background (your belief that public school teachers are part of the middle class notwith-

standing), deride him for not having suffered enough (as seen through their rose-tinted glasses), and accuse him of throwing in the towel when in fact much of his 28 years have been nothing but a struggle.

Commitment? You don't even know the meaning of the word.

—DR. KIM ARVIN PAGADUAN LOPEZ,
UP College of Medicine 2003,
dockimpoy@pacific.net.ph

THE OWNERS do not dictate the position of the paper on every issue, including this one. Incidentally, the writer of the editorial lives in a rented apartment.—Ed.

OPINION



Cabanatuan PPA row clarified

THE CABANATUAN Electric Corp. (Celcor) was duly authorized by the then Energy Regulatory Board to implement its purchased power adjustment (PPA).

This was the answer of ERC executive director Fructuoso Lagunsad to the Cabanatuan Consumers Association's (CCA) resolution containing allegations that Celcor was imposing on the consumers unauthorized PPA charges or collections.

In his letter to the CCA, Lagunsad explained that under Republic Act No. 7842, electric distributing utilities like Celcor were mandated to file applications with the ERB for the approval of their respective PPA formula. Before its approval, the PPA formula, he said, had undergone public hearings where all the comments, views and opinions of the stakeholders, including the allegations of various electric utilities and cooperatives, were considered.

Lagunsad also informed the CCA that the PPA is being monitored and reviewed by the ERC on a monthly basis to verify if what was charged to customers by the utility is just and proper and to determine the correctness of the computation using

the approved formula. If correctly applied or implemented, an order is issued confirming Celcor's PPA computation, otherwise, Celcor is directed to make the necessary adjustments, either to refund the over-recovery to its customers or collect the under-recovery, if any.

The August 2003 and October 2003 computations of Celcor which were also the subject of the CCA's resolution, were in accordance with the PPA monthly submission of the utility, Lagunsad said.

He added that the PPA is merely a cost recovery mechanism. Hence, any adjustments made in its computation do not in any way generate additional income or revenue to the electric utilities.

Meanwhile, as mandated in RA 9136, Celcor's billing charges will be unbundled into four categories: (1) generation, (2) transmission, (3) distribution, (4) supply. The PPA in the consumer's bill, will then be absorbed by some of the components in the unbundled rates of each service he is paying and the component thereof, which is causing the adjustments.

—PRUDENCIO E. MAGPAYO,
Cabanatuan City

If you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascarido Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@

inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Greenville Heights

RESIDENTIAL ESTATES

*Experience the comfort
of a worry-free lifestyle*



As Low as
P2,516 per month

Avail of our special
Launch price and
Discounts up to 25%

Greenville Heights, situated in Casili, Consolacion Cebu, offers a scenic view which highlights its world-class features and amenities typical of Sta. Lucia Realty's quality developments.

Whenever you feel like relaxing with your family and friends, the clubhouse awaits you with many recreational facilities - swimming pool, basketball court and tennis court

Land Owner:



MARIQUITA SALIMBANGON YEUNG

Developer:



STA. LUCIA
REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.

CREBA Developer of the Year 2003

Exclusive Marketing Network:



**ORCHARD PROPERTY
MARKETING CORPORATION**

A SUBSIDIARY OF STA. LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC.
Manila • Bulacan • Laguna • Quezon • Cebu • Iloilo • Davao
Visit our website: www.orchardproperty.com.ph



GRAND LAUNCH
on March 20, 2004 **CALL: (032) 231-3879**

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: lnq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: lnq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdvis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdmindao@dv.wobling.com

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Senator says applications for judges took big leap

ANGELES CITY—When before there were a few takers for some 3,000 vacancies, now the courts are enjoying a "quantum leap" in the number of applicants for the positions of judges, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said.

The jobs became attractive, he said, after the Senate approved the law doubling the pay of judges starting this year.

"Before we could not even have three applications, for example, at the municipal trial courts (MTCs). The (Judicial and Bar Council) is receiving from 80 to 90 applications in Manila and 20 to 30 applications in the provinces," Pangilinan, a JBC member, said.

"Unprecedented" was how he called the influx of applicants. The applications are being processed by the JBC. The appointments are expected in July after the election ban shall have been over.

The MTC, which has a 44-percent vacancy rate, needs more than 1,400 judges. About 30 percent of posts in regional trial courts nationwide are waiting to be filled up, he said.

According to Pangilinan, applicant-judges need five years of experience to make it to the MTC, 10 years for those aspiring for regional trial court positions and 15 years for those seeking slots at the appellate courts.

Contenders shunned the courts where the monthly pay for MTC and RTC judges ranged only from P22,000 to P25,000.

The salary upgrade is going to be done gradually starting this year, Pangilinan said. He said the first tranche of P150 million for the increase had been included in this year's national budget.

It was during the Aquino administration that judges last enjoyed a salary increase. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Southcom camps off-limits to bets

Army general says order just enforcement of laws

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko prohibited political campaigns inside military camps in Mindanao.

But Kyamko said he was only implementing an order issued by the military chief.

He said the prohibition on political campaigns inside military installations was based on Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code.

"The law says that the use of military facilities, vehicles or equipment owned by the AFP for any election campaign or any political activity is considered a prohibited act constituting an election offense," Kyamko said.

The directive, he said, was also issued "in anticipation of requests coming from political candidates that wished to campaign inside the camps to address their voters."

Aside from political campaigns, Kyamko said the military has also disallowed the posting or distribution of campaign para-

phernalia inside camps.

This, he said, is to ensure that soldiers are insulated from partisan politics.

Asked how would soldiers get information on candidates, Kyamko said they could always read newspapers, listen to the radio or watch television.

Earlier, a ranking military commander in Mindanao also asked soldiers to refrain from discussing their choices of candidates in public.

Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City said soldiers could influence the decision of civilians if they make known their chosen candidates.

The military hierarchy has warned soldiers against engaging in partisan politics. **Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



PARTISAN or not, there was no stopping President Macapagal-Arroyo from stepping into the Philippine National Police Academy grounds in Silang, Cavite to award the PNP school's top graduate, Elmer Hasley Decena, in a recent visit.

MALACANANG PHOTO

2 Chiong case convicts seek exhumation of Marijoy's remains

CEBU CITY—Two of the convicts in the Chiong rape-murder case have asked the Supreme Court to exhume the body found in Tan-awan, Carcar Cebu on July 18, 1997, which was later identified as that of Marijoy Chiong, for purposes of DNA examination.

This was one of the petitions of brothers James Andrew and James Anthony Uy in their motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court's Feb. 3 decision upgrading to death sentence the life imprisonment penalty imposed by a lower court on the seven young men found guilty in the Chiong sis-

ters' rape-murder case.

Lawyer Eric Carin, in his 14-page motion furnished the Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 7, questioned the identity of the body found in a ravine in Carcar.

He said no less than the deceased trial judge of the case, Judge Martin Ocampo, expressed in no uncertain terms the court's serious doubt as to the corpse's identity.

In moving for exhumation, Carin said it was not his intention to "offend the sensibilities of the members of the family, relatives and friends of Marijoy and Jacqueline but rather to

find out the truth regarding the identity of said dead body."

The body of Marijoy was buried at the Cebu Memorial Park. Jacqueline remained missing until now.

Carin added that rather than to desecrate the dead, his clients wanted only to "consecrate the truth."

"Considering that six lives are to be taken away by lethal injunction under the Feb. 3 decision of the honorable tribunal en banc, is it legal and moral at this point in time to determine, first with utmost certainty the identity of the dead body," he said.

The Supreme Court did not only affirm the ruling of Ocampo but likewise upgraded the penalty from life imprisonment to death by lethal injection on Francisco Juan Paco Larrañaga, Josman Aznar, Rowen Adlawan, Alberto Cano and Ariel Balansag. Only James Andrew was spared from the death penalty as he was a minor at the time of the rape-murder on July 16, 1997.

Carin believed the issue should be resolved "to erase serious doubts surrounding the identity of the dead body" found in Carcar.

Carin also asked the High Tri-

bunal to hold in abeyance further proceedings of the case, particularly the execution of the death sentence until after the results of the DNA testing are available.

Carin said Ocampo expressed his doubts regarding the corpse's identity when he promulgated his decision on May 5, 1999.

Quoting Ocampo's order, Carin said the judge even raised the "deliberate intent on the part of the police and the prosecution not to present frontal, close-up pictures of the face of the said corpse." **Susanne Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau**

Farmers say 'Gloria rice' improved harvest, income

LOCAL hybrid rice farmers expressed their full support to hybrid rice seeds also known as 'Gloria rice' for doubling their yields and incomes last year.

Farmers from Pangasinan and the Ilocos region voiced their support at a consultation workshop.

They said the possibility of the Philippines becoming a rice-exporting country is now within reach. They also expressed optimism that their yields for this harvest season may even surpass previous records.

During the forum on new farm technologies, farmer leader Antonio Villanueva from Ilocos Sur said the new hybrid rice seeds enabled him to harvest from 10 to 12 metric tons of rice as compared to the 5 metric tons of rice of yield from ordinary bred seeds.

Reynaldo Obillo of San Luis, Rosales, Pangasinan said his family's lifestyle improved because of the high-yielding variety.

"Our lives improved. Before my child gets only P25 in allowance in high school from me, now he gets P70 because

my harvest improved," he said.

Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, in a statement, said his department has been aggressively promoting the new rice seeds in the countryside as part of the administration's food security and job creation programs.

He said more rice farmers are assured of a good income because of the President's directive to increase the procurement funds of the National Food Authority from P1 billion to P4 billion.

"The commercialization of hybrid rice and stronger partnerships between the private sector, government and local farmers has brought about economic miracles in rural areas," his statement said.

"President Arroyo believes that this momentum should be sustained," Lorenzo said.

Hybrid rice was first developed in China where 33 million hectares of rice lands are planted to the new seeds. PhilRice, a research institution of the Department of Agriculture, adapted the Chinese variety to Philippine conditions.

NPA owns up village chief's slay

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The New People's Army on Thursday owned up the death of a village chief in nearby Makilala town.

Ricardo Ferniza, spokesperson of the NPA's Magtanggol Roque Command, said they killed Maximino Ravina, chairman of barangay Rodero, because he was a military supporter.

In a statement, Ferniza said they had warned Ravina against increasing the number of members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cargu) in Rodero.

"We had been trying to talk to him and we had been discouraging him but he ignored all our calls. The times he ignored us could have been the best time for us to tell him to stop his counter revolutionary actions," Ferniza said. **Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

"**SUPERKALAN**" is a brand name and trademark of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) 2.7 kg. cylinders manufactured and distributed by **Superkalan Gaz Corporation**.

The brand **SUPRAKALAN** which has the same size, look, color and appearance of **SUPERKALAN** is not a product of **Superkalan Gaz Corporation** and will not be accepted by our dealers.

While the cylinders of **SUPERKALAN** are manufactured according to very strict quality standards under PNS 03-1:2002 of the Bureau of Product Standards, Department of Trade and Industry, this is untrue for **SUPRAKALAN**. We are advising the general public not to purchase **SUPRAKALAN** to ensure consumer safety.

Trading of **SUPRAKALAN** LPG is a criminal activity under R.A. 8293. If you have information regarding the owners/manufacturers/distributors of **SUPRAKALAN** cylinders, please contact our authorized dealers or call the telephone numbers listed below.



Superkalan Gaz Corporation

Compound 21 Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila

Tels: (632)838 4837 • 837 3820 • 838 6882/83

Fax: (632) 838 4839

ANG & ASSOCIATES

Counsel for SuperKalan Gaz Corporation

No. 18 Temperance Lane, Interville subd.

Brgy. Culliat, Quezon City

Telephone Numbers: 925-3528 to 29

Telefax: 927-6228

E-mail Address: attyang@mozcom.com

Solon seeks probe of Kalinga bridge collapse

FOLLOWING the embarrassing collapse last month of a controversial P100-million bridge in Kalinga province, Rep. Lawrence Wacnang wants Malacañang to swiftly order an independent investigation leading to the prosecution of those liable for the fiasco.

Wacnang made the statement amid calls for a thorough review of all ongoing bridge projects throughout the country to ensure that vital arterial links are structurally sound and safe for motorists and all road users.

The review, Wacnang said in a statement, should include more than 50 bridges in the country whose construction is allegedly being rushed to meet summer completion deadlines.

These include, among others, three major

bridges in Metro Manila—La Huerta Bridge in Parañaque, Sevilla Bridge in Mandaluyong City and Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela.

"To avoid another embarrassing fiasco like the Pasil Bridge collapse, ongoing bridge projects should be carefully evaluated and not rushed to completion. While tempers often flare up due to the grave inconvenience caused by bridge construction, its better to be safe than sorry," Wacnang said.

He added that active fault lines in the Metro area should be taken seriously in designing and constructing bridge foundations.

Built with British assistance and funding, the suspension-type Pasil Bridge collapsed in the early morning of Feb. 8, even before it could be inaugurated.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074)443-9255
Fax No. (074)443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
23 Aurora St., Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdlvis@skynet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
F-P Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdlmda@dvwebinq.com

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Senator says applications for judges took big leap

ANGELES CITY—When before there were a few takers for some 3,000 vacancies, now the courts are enjoying a "quantum leap" in the number of applicants for the positions of judges, Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said.

The jobs became attractive, he said, after the Senate approved the law doubling the pay of judges starting this year.

"Before we could not even have three applications, for example, at the municipal trial courts (MTCs). The (Judicial and Bar Council) is receiving from 80 to 90 applications in Manila and 20 to 30 applications in the provinces," Pangilinan, a JBC member, said.

"Unprecedented" was how he called the influx of applicants. The applications are being processed by the JBC. The appointments are expected in July after the election ban shall have been over.

The MTC, which has a 44-percent vacancy rate, needs more than 1,400 judges. About 30 percent of posts in regional trial courts nationwide are waiting to be filled up, he said.

According to Pangilinan, applicant-judges need five years of experience to make it to the MTC, 10 years for those aspiring for regional trial court positions and 15 years for those seeking slots at the appellate courts.

Contenders shunned the courts where the monthly pay for MTC and RTC judges ranged only from P22,000 to P25,000.

The salary upgrade is going to be done gradually starting this year, Pangilinan said. He said the first tranche of P150 million for the increase had been included in this year's national budget.

It was during the Aquino administration that judges last enjoyed a salary increase. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

Southcom camps off-limits to bets

Army general says order just enforcement of laws

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko prohibited political campaigns inside military camps in Mindanao.

But Kyamko said he was only implementing an order issued by the military chief.

He said the prohibition on political campaigns inside military installations was based on Section 261 of the Omnibus Election Code.

"The law says that the use of military facilities, vehicles or equipment owned by the AFP for any election campaign or any political activity is considered a prohibited act constituting an election offense," Kyamko said.

The directive, he said, was also issued "in anticipation of requests coming from political candidates that wished to campaign inside the camps to address their voters."

Aside from political campaigns, Kyamko said the military has also disallowed the posting or distribution of campaign para-

phernalia inside camps.

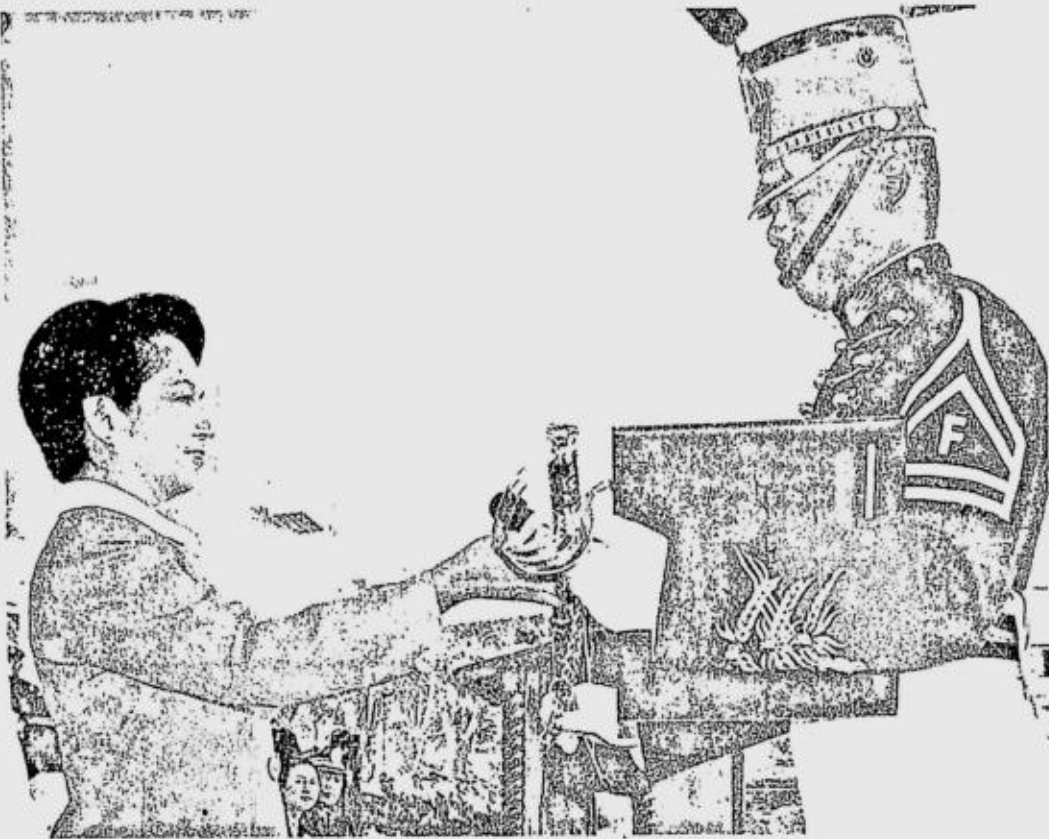
This, he said, is to ensure that soldiers are insulated from partisan politics.

Asked how would soldiers get information on candidates, Kyamko said they could always read newspapers, listen to the radio or watch television.

Earlier, a ranking military commander in Mindanao also asked soldiers to refrain from discussing their choices of candidates in public.

Maj. Gen. Samuel Bagasin of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City said soldiers could influence the decision of civilians if they make known their chosen candidates.

The military hierarchy has warned soldiers against engaging in partisan politics. **Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau**



PARTISAN or not, there was no stopping President Macapagal-Arroyo from stepping into the Philippine National Police Academy grounds in Silang, Cavite to award the PNP school's top graduate, Elmer Hasley Decena, in a recent visit.

MALACANANG PHOTO

2 Chiong case convicts seek exhumation of Marijoy's remains

CEBU CITY—Two of the convicts in the Chiong rape-murder case have asked the Supreme Court to exhume the body found in Tan-awan, Carcar Cebu on July 18, 1997, which was later identified as that of Marijoy Chiong, for purposes of DNA examination.

This was one of the petitions of brothers James Andrew and James Anthony Uy in their motion for reconsideration of the Supreme Court's Feb. 3 decision upgrading to death sentence the life imprisonment penalty imposed by a lower court on the seven young men found guilty in the Chiong sis-

ters' rape-murder case.

Lawyer Eric Carin, in his 14-page motion furnished the Cebu Regional Trial Court Branch 7, questioned the identity of the body found in a ravine in Carcar.

He said no less than the deceased trial judge of the case, Judge Martin Ocampo, expressed in no uncertain terms the court's serious doubt as to the corpse's identity.

In moving for exhumation, Carin said it was not his intention to "offend the sensibilities of the members of the family, relatives and friends of Marijoy and Jacqueline but rather to

find out the truth regarding the identity of said dead body."

The body of Marijoy was buried at the Cebu Memorial Park. Jacqueline remained missing until now.

Carin added that rather than to desecrate the dead, his clients wanted only to "consecrate the truth."

"Considering that six lives are to be taken away by lethal injunction under the Feb. 3 decision of the honorable tribunal *en banc*, is it legal and moral at this point in time to determine, first with utmost certainty the identity of the dead body," he said.

The Supreme Court did not only affirm the ruling of Ocampo but likewise upgraded the penalty from life imprisonment to death by lethal injection on Francisco Juan Paco Larrañaga, Josman Aznar, Rowen Adlawan, Alberto Cano and Ariel Balansag. Only James Andrew was spared from the death penalty as he was a minor at the time of the rape-murder on July 16, 1997.

Carin believed the issue should be resolved "to erase serious doubts surrounding the identity of the dead body" found in Carcar.

Carin also asked the High Tri-

bunal to hold in abeyance further proceedings of the case, particularly the execution of the death sentence until after the results of the DNA testing are available.

Carin said Ocampo expressed his doubts regarding the corpse's identity when he promulgated his decision on May 5, 1999.

Quoting Ocampo's order, Carin said the judge even raised the "deliberate intent on the part of the police and the prosecution not to present frontal, close-up pictures of the face of the said corpse." **Susanne Salva, PDI Visayas Bureau**

Farmers say 'Gloria rice' improved harvest, income

LOCAL hybrid rice farmers expressed their full support to hybrid rice seeds also known as 'Gloria rice' for doubling their yields and incomes last year.

Farmers from Pangasinan and the Ilocos region voiced their support at a consultation workshop.

They said the possibility of the Philippines becoming a rice-exporting country is now within reach. They also expressed optimism that their yields for this harvest season may even surpass previous records.

During the forum on new farm technologies, farmer leader Antonio Villanueva from Ilocos Sur said the new hybrid rice seeds enabled him to harvest from 10 to 12 metric tons of rice as compared to the 5 metric tons of rice of yield from ordinary bred seeds.

Reynaldo Obillo of San Luis, Rosales, Pangasinan said his family's lifestyle improved because of the high-yielding variety.

"Our lives improved. Before my child gets only P25 in allowance in high school from me, now he gets P70 because

my harvest improved," he said.

Agriculture Secretary Cito Lorenzo, in a statement, said his department has been aggressively promoting the new rice seeds in the countryside as part of the administration's food security and job creation programs.

He said more rice farmers are assured of a good income because of the President's directive to increase the procurement funds of the National Food Authority from P1 billion to P4 billion.

"The commercialization of hybrid rice and stronger partnerships between the private sector, government and local farmers has brought about economic miracles in rural areas," his statement said.

"President Arroyo believes that this momentum should be sustained," Lorenzo said.

Hybrid rice was first developed in China where 33 million hectares of rice lands are planted to the new seeds. PhilRice, a research institution of the Department of Agriculture, adapted the Chinese variety to Philippine conditions.

NPA owns up village chief's slay

KIDAPAWAN CITY—The New People's Army on Thursday owned up the death of a village chief in nearby Makilala town.

Ricardo Ferniza, spokesperson of the NPA's Magtanggol Roque Command, said they killed Maximino Ravina, chairman of barangay Rodero, because he was a military supporter.

In a statement, Ferniza said they had warned Ravina against increasing the number of members of the Citizens Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) in Rodero.

"We had been trying to talk to him and we had been discouraging him but he ignored all our calls. The times he ignored us could have been the best time for us to tell him to stop his counter revolutionary actions," Ferniza said. **Jeffrey Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

"**SUPERKALAN**" is a brand name and trademark of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) 2.7 kg. cylinders manufactured and distributed by **Superkalan Gaz Corporation**.

The brand **SUPRAKALAN** which has the same size, look, color and appearance of **SUPERKALAN** is not a product of **Superkalan Gaz Corporation** and will not be accepted by our dealers.

While the cylinders of **SUPERKALAN** are manufactured according to very strict quality standards under PNS 03-1:2002 of the Bureau of Product Standards, Department of Trade and Industry, this is untrue for **SUPRAKALAN**. We are advising the general public not to purchase **SUPRAKALAN** to ensure consumer safety.

Trading of **SUPRAKALAN** LPG is a criminal activity under R.A. 8293. If you have information regarding the owners/manufacturers/distributors of **SUPRAKALAN** cylinders, please contact our authorized dealers or call the telephone numbers listed below.



Superkalan Gaz Corporation

Compound 21 Veterans Center, Taguig, Metro Manila
Tels: (632)838 4837 • 837 3820 • 838 6882/83
Fax: (632) 838 4839

ANG & ASSOCIATES

Counsel for Superkalan Gaz Corporation
No. 18 Temperance Lane, Interville subd.
Brgy. Cullat, Quezon City
Telephone Numbers: 925-3528 to 29
Telefax: 927-6228
E-mail Address: attyang@mozcom.com

Solon seeks probe of Kalinga bridge collapse

FOLLOWING the embarrassing collapse last month of a controversial P100-million bridge in Kalinga province, Rep. Lawrence Wacnang wants Malacañang to swiftly order an independent investigation leading to the prosecution of those liable for the fiasco.

Wacnang made the statement amid calls for a thorough review of all ongoing bridge projects throughout the country to ensure that vital arterial links are structurally sound and safe for motorists and all road users.

The review, Wacnang said in a statement, should include more than 50 bridges in the country whose construction is allegedly being rushed to meet summer completion deadlines.

These include, among others, three major

bridges in Metro Manila—La Huerta Bridge in Parañaque, Sevilla Bridge in Mandaluyong City and Tullahan Bridge in Valenzuela.

"To avoid another embarrassing fiasco like the Pasil Bridge collapse, ongoing bridge projects should be carefully evaluated and not rushed to completion. While tempers often flare up due to the grave inconvenience caused by bridge construction, it's better to be safe than sorry," Wacnang said.

He added that active fault lines in the Metro area should be taken seriously in designing and constructing bridge foundations.

Built with British assistance and funding, the suspension-type Pasil Bridge collapsed in the early morning of Feb. 8, even before it could be inaugurated.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Across the **NATION****GMA barely misses jailbreak**

PAGBILAO, Quezon—Barely five hours before President Macapagal-Arroyo arrived in nearby Lucena City on Thursday to spend the night for her early morning campaign sortie in Quezon yesterday, at least two prisoners were killed while six others successfully bolted the district jail in Barangay Talipan here.

Senior Insp. Manuel Labeste, Talipan District jail warden, said nine more prisoners and one jail guard suffered injuries during a brief exchange of gunfire between the jail security force and the group of escapees.

Five of the prisoners and the lone wounded guard were still confined at the hospital as a result of serious injuries in different parts of the body.

Jail authorities identified the fatalities as Anthony Baggay, charged with two counts of robbery; and Vicente Baguiwan, robbery-two counts, both of Kalinga.

Ransacked

Labeste said the escapees also ransacked the jail armory and took guns and ammunition.

The armed escapees were identified as Rolando Ramos, charged with murder; Erick Basan, frustrated homicide; Ronilo Gulpan, frustrated homicide; Manolito Eranista, rape; Eduardo Andaya Jr., frustrated murder; and Henry Andaya, frustrated murder.

Investigators said three of the escapees sneaked past the steel gate of one of the major cells at

around 5:30 p.m. when the food rations were being carried inside the dormitory.

The prisoners immediately took hostage two of the jail guards in the nearby office as their companions took the weapons.

As the escapees ran to the main gate of the prison compound, they were met with a volley of gunfire from the remaining eight guards on duty, including Labeste.

Arrived

And while BJMP authorities were hunting the escapees, President Macapagal-Arroyo unexpectedly arrived at the prison compound at around 10:30 p.m.

Ms Macapagal gave a "light sermon" but readily acknow-

ledged the lack of guards manning the prison, according to one of the jail security forces.

The jailhouse has a total of 382 inmates but has only 20 guards working in shifts.

The President spent the night at the tightly guarded Mirant-Pagbilao Corp. rest house along the coast of the Isla Grande in Barangay Ibabang Polo in this town.

She left for Lopez, Quezon at around 8 a.m. to start her sortie in the province.

BJMP Director Arturo Alit, brandishing an Armalite rifle, and Senior Supt. Jose Esmeralda III led police in the hunt for the escaped prisoners.

Labeste said some of the escapees were wounded. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Village chiefs see bias in Gloria road project

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—Is the "Kalsada Natin, Alagaan Natin (We should take care of our roads)" project only for party mates of President Macapagal-Arroyo?

Six barangay captains of Trinidad town, 96 kilometers from here, want to know.

The question was asked in a letter sent on Feb. 20 to Public Works Secretary Florante Sorioquez.

The signatories were barangay captains Vidal Cajés of Poblacion; Manolo Dungog of Hinlayagan Ilaud; Prudencio Laspuna of M. Cabiguhan; Gre-

gorio Cambangay of Hinlayagan Ilaya; Gabino Agot of Tagum Sur; and Emeliano Gu-cor of Soom.

They said the program started in Trinidad town Feb. 2 in Barangays Poblacion, M. Cabiguhan, Soom, Guinobatan, San Vicente, Tagum Sur, Hinlayagan Ilaud and Hinlayagan Ilaya.

But "surprisingly," they said the project stopped on Feb. 9 in Poblacion, Tagum Sur, Soom, M. Cabiguhan, Hinlayagan Ilaud and Hinlayagan Ilaya after a vice mayor allied with Ms Macapagal complained that the villages were not supporting the President.

ROUNDUP**Dolphin buried**

ARINGAY, La Union—Residents of Barangay Sto. Rosario here buried on Friday a wounded dolphin that died after it strayed into the Aringay River on Friday. Westly Rosario, chief of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources' research center, said a group of teenagers saw the dolphin while they were swimming in the river. He said a villager reported to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the municipal government and the provincial veterinary office about the dolphin that bore a wound in its chest. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

6 hurt in ride

MANGALDAN, Pangasinan—Six people, including three children, were hurt on Sunday when a steel arm of an octopus ride broke, hurling the boxes they were riding in into the ground. Chief Insp. Harris Fama, town police chief, said the accident occurred at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday. He identified the victims as Danny Becbec, 10, and his sister Michelle, 9; Bobby Garcia, 20; Rolly Lalata, 19; Cathy Poheda, 20; and Andrei Oliver de Guzman, 5. *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Consultant shot

BANGUED, Abra—A consultant of Gov. Vicente Valera was shot and wounded near the provincial library in Zone 3 here Monday last week. Police said Marino Bicara, 51, a former barangay captain of Dangdangla and Valera's barangay consultant, suffered from a bullet wound in his left thigh after three men armed with a 12-gauge shotgun attacked him. Bicara said the attack might be politically motivated. "Maybe somebody did not like what I have been telling (the governor about what's happening in the barangays)," he said.

Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Cops hunting killer cop

CABANATUAN CITY—Police are hunting a policeman for the killing of two men in a videoke bar in San Isidro, Nueva Ecija, on Sunday. The victims were identified as Reynaldo Magtoto, 43, a municipal government employee, and Mario Clemente, 37, a jeepney driver. Reports said the victims were inside the Apple's Video Bar when the suspect, PO1 Alexander Velasco, and a woman arrived. Velasco, for an unknown reason, engaged the victims in an argument, but he and his woman companion later left the bar. A few minutes later, Velasco returned and shot the victims. *Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Perjury cases

A QUEZON CITY court has summoned a former ambassador to appear in an arraignment for two counts of perjury filed against him by a contractor. Judge Manuel Taro of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court set the arraignment of Restituto de Guzman on March 16. The perjury cases were filed by contractor Jaime Lim who accused De Guzman of submitting separate affidavits before the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and the Quezon City prosecutor's office.

Dynamite found

BAGUIO CITY—Police recovered 25 sticks of dynamite left near a liquefied petroleum gas tank of a fastfood chain along Magsaysay Avenue here on Saturday last week. Supt. Isagani Nerez, city police director, said they are hunting the suspect, Michael Orghihon, who was charged with a similar bombing try at a karaoke bar here last year.

Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Actress' hubby joins polls as Angeles bet

THE SON of a former singer-actor has thrown his hat into the political ring to run as councilor of Angeles City.

Geryk Genasky, son of former singer-actor Rudy Genasky and husband of actress Isabel Granada, in a statement, said he decided to heed re-

quests from his supporters for him to run as councilor of Angeles in the coming elections.

The 24-year-old Genasky finished college with a bachelor of science degree in engineering at the De La Salle University.

He and his actress-wife decided to stay in his hometown in Balibago, Angeles City after their marriage.



GENASKY

Breakneck speed

SKY DSL

Extremely fast in every way!

Introducing SkyDSL: the High-speed DSL service on all counts. Experience our extremely fast download speeds at up to 384kbps and unlimited service usage. Extremely fast installations get you connected in just 5 days. And an extremely fast 24/7 customer center responds to your problems in 4 hours. Try it for 5 days FREE and see how SkyDSL breaks speed limits. For a 5 day FREE trial, call 449-3293 or 449-3118, or visit our website at www.skyinet.net. SkyDSL is initially available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Malabon and Valenzuela. Powered by SKY internet.

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Giving the gift of word to kids with autism

By Edra L. Benedicto
Cebu City

"BUTTERFLY." It was the first complete word uttered by Monique, and her parents were beyond joy.

They were so overwhelmed and grateful that the whole family, including her two siblings and grandparents on both sides that same day trooped to the shrine of the Birhen sa Regla (Virgin of the Rule) in Lapulapu City in Cebu to thank the Blessed Virgin for an answered prayer.

Monique is no ordinary child. She was diagnosed to have autism spectrum disability when she was 3 years old. Her parents had almost given up hope that she would ever talk until on Aug. 6 last year, when, at age 5, she finally "emerged," as her father Roger Magtajas would put it, with that first word.

Monique, in many ways, is a very lucky child. Early diagnosis of her disability enabled her parents to give her proper care and therapy. Much of that they owed to the Responsive Education for Autistic Children (REACH) Center, run by a non-profit, non-stock foundation administered by parents of autistic children in Cebu.

Autism is an incapacitating lifelong disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the brain and stunts the child's development in the areas of social interaction and communication.

Children and adults with autism have difficulties communicating, interacting with others and engaging in play activities.

Autism, the REACH Center stressed, is not curable but can be treated, especially if the child is diagnosed early and receives intervention early in life.

The Philippines has 99,000 to 138,000 people with autism, but only about 2 percent of them have been diagnosed and only a measly half a percent are receiving appropriate intervention, according to data obtained from the center.

A long journey

Why so many children have remained undiagnosed?

Dr. Jacqueline Jabonero-Espina, Cebu's only practicing developmental pediatrician, has several explanations.

Many parents, she said, do not know anything about autism because there is very little public awareness about the disability.

Parents also learned that getting their child diagnosed with autism was just the beginning of a long journey ahead. Where to go next to get help for their child is the bigger problem.

This was the dilemma that faced parents of autistic children. The absence of a "school" where children with autism could get the correct learning tools was what drove parents of six autistic children to put up their own center three years ago.

Couple Yumi and Sandra Espina recalled their desperation when the Cebu Learning Center, which had accepted autistic children, closed shop in March 2001. They had nowhere else to enroll their 3-year-old son.

It was after a visit at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) in Parañaque City in Metro Manila that they came up with the decision to put up their own school.

With help from the CARD, the Espinas and five other parents formed the REACH Foundation Inc. that gave birth to the school.

The REACH Center opened in June 2001 in a one-room "school" equipped with only a few small plastic chairs and tables. From six, the number of students grew to 16 during its first year.

Today, after three years, the center attends to 65 autistic children crammed on the ground floor and sections of the second and third floors of the Espina-owned House of Architect Building on Juana Osmeña Extension in Cebu City. The building is used for free.

Much of the center's improvements were accomplished through donations it had received from various sources. The donors came, saw the sorry state of the school, and decided to give.

This was what happened to South Korean Harold Youngshik Shim, an officer of the Rotary Club of Seoul-Jeil, who after seeing the uphill battle that the foundation was doing to provide education for autistic children, went home and worked for a year to obtain donations from his own club in Seoul, South Korea and obtained a grant from Rotary International.

By the end of the year, he has raised \$28,000 for the REACH Center, including the \$14,000 raised locally by the foundation through the Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente headed by Me'Ann Alcorido-Solomon.

It was mainly because of the donations of the Rotary Clubs that the REACH Center has, for the past two years, been able to offer scholarship programs to 10 children with autism, who belong to poor families.

All about love

At present, the center has full time teaching staff composed of four occupational therapists, a psychologist and four special education teachers.

Their salaries are so measly that even a government clerk gets a higher pay. Most parents who have children studying at the REACH, like the Espinas and Magtajas, are volunteers.

Roger Magtajas, for example, gave up a high-paying job as a computer programmer in the US to come home to help care for Monique. He now acts as the property administrator of the center

while earning a living as a businessman.

The director, Haidi Fajardo, is an architect who set aside a lucrative practice in favor of running the center.

Carolina Pacana, the principal, has a masteral degree in special education and spent three years at the Los Angeles Unified District in California, teaching children with autism. She could have easily landed a better paying job when she came home to Cebu last year, but she chose to run the center instead for a fraction of what she could have earned elsewhere.

Yumi, one of Cebu's sought after architects, doubles as foundation president.

To them, teachers and parents alike, it's all about love and commitment. This, according to Magtajas, is the secret of why the REACH Center has succeeded in making the children in their care become functional.

They find joy in simple things taken for granted among "normal" children—like having an autistic child finally responding to his or her own name, or getting him to finally hold a cup and drink from it.

Despite its financial constraints, the center has been able to provide a daily teaching program using the FIT method—functional integrated team approach—that addresses three develop-

mental areas affected in autism: adaptation, communication and social skills.

Dinner benefit show

But as the student population grew, the administrators realized they needed a bigger space for the school. A property in Mandaue City was offered to the foundation for a fraction of its actual cost. Using money both solicited and borrowed, a new school is now being built there, with a spacious yard and garden.

But while the new school building had taken shape, there was nothing left to have it completed. It was then that

Me'Ann, the most avid fund raiser for the center, came up with the idea of holding a benefit dinner show with the REACH Foundation as beneficiary.

The concert, billed "Reach Out with Chad Borja," will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel, on March 19. Borja agreed to sing for free.

Me'Ann, Haidi, Sandra and the other organizers of the concert hope that they will not only be able to raise enough money to complete the new center but, also spread to a wider public a better understanding of the challenges that face children with autism.

"Makaka-graduate na ako. Salamat sa **SAFE 4 SR!**"



Ngayon, makakasiguro ka na sa graduation mo sa College dahil sa **SAFE 4 SR.**

Ang **SAFE 4 SR (Student's Assistance Fund for a Strong Republic)** ay isang **0% interest** loan program para sa mga graduating 4th at 3rd year college students. Malaking tulong ito para sa mga bayarin tulad ng tuition, books, thesis papers, board and lodging bills, graduation fees at iba't-iba pang mga educational expenses.

Naipamahagi na sa mga sumusunod na Colleges at Universities sa NCR ang pondong nakalaan para sa inyo, at kasalukuyang hinahanda na ang para sa mga ibang paaralan sa buong Pilipinas.

Tignan ang listahan ng mga colleges at universities na kabilang sa **SAFE 4 SR** at hanapin ang inyong **Student Financial Assistance** unit para sa inyong mga katanungan ukol sa programmang ito.

SAFE 4 SR, Pangakong natupad na!



A priority concern of President Gloria

Arellano University - Manila
Arellano University - Pasay
Arellano University - Pasig
Air Link International Aviation School
Asia School of Arts and Sciences - The College of I.T.
Asian College of Science and Technology - Cubao
Asian College of Science and Technology - Novaliches
Caloocan City University
Central Colleges of the Philippines
Centro Escolar University
Child Jesus College
Children of Mary Immaculate College
City of Malabon University
Colegio De San Juan de Letran
Colegio De San Lorenzo
Concordia College
De La Salle Araneta - University
De La Salle University
De Los Santos - STI College of Health Professions, Inc.
Divine Mercy College Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Carlos S. Lanting College
Far Eastern University
Governor Andres Pascual College
Guzman College of Science and Technology
Holy Rosary College
Interface Computer College - Caloocan
Interface Computer College - Manila
International Academy of Management and Economics
La Consolacion College (Manila)
Manila Doctors College, Inc.
Manuel L. Quezon University
MAPUA Institute of Technology
Metro Business College - Pasay
Metro Manila College
Metropolitan Hospital College of Nursing
National College of Business Arts - Cubao
National College of Business Arts - Fairview
Navotas Polytechnic College
Nova Computer College

Our Lady of Fatima College - Quezon City
Our Lady of Fatima University (F.M.S. Foundation)
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig
Perpetual Help College of Manila
Philippine Merchant Marine School Sta. Cruz
Philsin College Foundation, Inc.
Polytechnic University of the Philippines
Saint Francis of Assisi College System
Samson College of Science and Technology - QC
San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation, Inc.
Santa Isabel College
St. Claire College of Caloocan
St. Francis Divine College
St. John Berchman's School of Manila Foundation, Inc.
St. Joseph's College of Quezon City
St. Louis College - Valenzuela
St. Paul University of Manila
Sta. Catalina College
STI College - Cubao
STI College - Edsa Crossing
STI College - Guadalupe
STI College - Makati
STI College - Muñoz Edsa
STI College - Taft
System Plus Computer College - Caloocan
System Plus Computer College - Quezon City
Technological Institute of the Philippines - Manila
Technological Institute of the Philippines - Quezon City
Technological University of the Philippines
The Fleher's Valley College
The National Teachers College
The Philippine Women's University Manila - Manila
The Philippine Women's University Manila - Quezon City
Trinity College of Quezon City
University Belt Informatics Computer Institute, Inc.
University of Perpetual Help
University of the East - Caloocan
University of Santo Tomas
West Bay College
World City Colleges

More questions? Contact us.

Presidential Assistant Dennis L. Cunanan (Office of the Presidential Assistant for Youth Affairs)
4/F Mabini Hall, Malacanang, Manila Tel Nos: (02) 734-4232, 733-8743, 735-6201 local 6438
Fax No: (02) 733-8766 Mobile No: 0927-5233967 Email: safe4sr2004@yahoo.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

INQUIRER *Visayas*

Giving the gift of word to kids with autism

By Edra L. Benedicto
Cebu City

"BUTTERFLY." It was the first complete word uttered by Monique, and her parents were beyond joy.

They were so overwhelmed and grateful that the whole family, including her two siblings and grandparents on both sides that same day trooped to the shrine of the Birhen sa Regla (Virgin of the Rule) in Lapulapu City in Cebu to thank the Blessed Virgin for an answered prayer.

Monique is no ordinary child. She was diagnosed to have autism spectrum disability when she was 3 years old. Her parents had almost given up hope that she would ever talk until on Aug. 6 last year, when, at age 5, she finally "emerged," as her father Roger Magtajas would put it, with that first word.

Monique, in many ways, is a very lucky child. Early diagnosis of her disability enabled her parents to give her proper care and therapy. Much of that they owed to the Responsive Education for Autistic Children (REACH) Center, run by a non-profit, non-stock foundation administered by parents of autistic children in Cebu.

Autism is an incapacitating lifelong disability that typically appears during the first three years of life. It is the result of a neurological disorder that affects the brain and stunts the child's development in the areas of social interaction and communication.

Children and adults with autism have difficulties communicating, interacting with others and engaging in play activities.

Autism, the REACH Center stressed, is not curable but can be treated, especially if the child is diagnosed early and receives intervention early in life.

The Philippines has 99,000 to 138,000 people with autism, but only about 2 percent of them have been diagnosed and only a measly half a percent are receiving appropriate intervention, according to data obtained from the center.

A long journey

Why so many children have remained undiagnosed?

Dr. Jacqueline Jabonero-Espina, Cebu's only practicing developmental pediatrician, has several explanations.

Many parents, she said, do not know anything about autism because there is very little public awareness about the disability.

Parents also learned that getting their child diagnosed with autism was just the beginning of a long journey ahead. Where to go next to get help for their child is the bigger problem.

This was the dilemma that faced parents of autistic children. The absence of a "school" where children with autism could get the correct learning tools was what drove parents of six autistic children to put up their own center three years ago.

Couple Yumi and Sandra Espina recalled their desperation when the Cebu Learning Center, which had accepted autistic children, closed shop in March 2001. They had nowhere else to enroll their 3-year-old son.

It was after a visit at the Center for Autism and Related Disorders (CARD) in Parañaque City in Metro Manila that they came up with the decision to put up their own school.

With help from the CARD, the Espinas and five other parents formed the REACH Foundation Inc. that gave birth to the school.

The REACH Center opened in June 2001 in a one-room "school" equipped with only a few small plastic chairs and tables. From six, the number of students grew to 16 during its first year.

Today, after three years, the center attends to 65 autistic children crammed on the ground floor and sections of the second and third floors of the Espina-owned House of Architect Building on Juana Osmeña Extension in Cebu City. The building is used for free.

Much of the center's improvements were accomplished through donations it had received from various sources. The donors came, saw the sorry state of the school, and decided to give.

This was what happened to South Korean Harold Youngshik Shim, an officer of the Rotary Club of Seoul-Jeil, who after seeing the uphill battle that the foundation was doing to provide education for autistic children, went home and worked for a year to obtain donations from his own club in Seoul, South Korea and obtained a grant from Rotary International.

By the end of the year, he has raised \$28,000 for the REACH Center, including the \$14,000 raised locally by the foundation through the Rotary Club of Cebu Fuente headed by Me'Ann Alcorido-Solomon.

It was mainly because of the donations of the Rotary Clubs that the REACH Center has, for the past two years, been able to offer scholarship programs to 10 children with autism, who belong to poor families.

All about love

At present, the center has full time teaching staff composed of four occupational therapists, a psychologist and four special education teachers.

Their salaries are so measly that even a government clerk gets a higher pay. Most parents who have children studying at the REACH, like the Espinas and Magtajas, are volunteers.

Roger Magtajas, for example, gave up a high-paying job as a computer programmer in the US to come home to help care for Monique. He now acts as the property administrator of the center

while earning a living as a businessman.

The director, Haidi Fajardo, is an architect who set aside a lucrative practice in favor of running the center.

Carolina Pacana, the principal, has a masteral degree in special education and spent three years at the Los Angeles Unified District in California, teaching children with autism. She could have easily landed a better paying job when she came home to Cebu last year, but she chose to run the center instead for a fraction of what she could have earned elsewhere.

Yumi, one of Cebu's sought after architects, doubles as foundation president.

To them, teachers and parents alike, it's all about love and commitment. This, according to Magtajas, is the secret of why the REACH Center has succeeded in making the children in their care become functional.

They find joy in simple things taken for granted among "normal" children—like having an autistic child finally responding to his or her own name, or getting him to finally hold a cup and drink from it.

Despite its financial constraints, the center has been able to provide a daily teaching program using the FIT method—functional integrated team approach—that addresses three develop-

mental areas affected in autism: adaptation, communication and social skills.

Dinner benefit show

But as the student population grew, the administrators realized they needed a bigger space for the school. A property in Mandaue City was offered to the foundation for a fraction of its actual cost. Using money both solicited and borrowed, a new school is now being built there, with a spacious yard and garden.

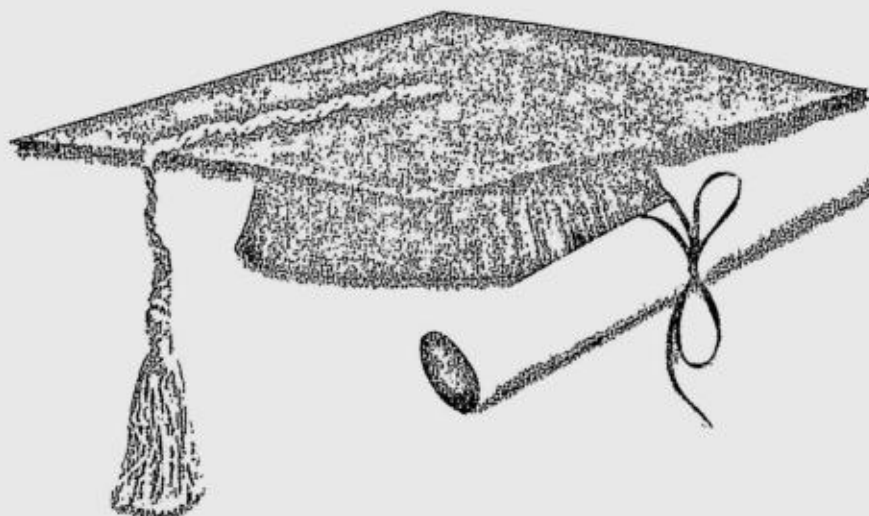
But while the new school building had taken shape, there was nothing left to have it completed. It was then that

Me'Ann, the most avid fund raiser for the center, came up with the idea of holding a benefit dinner show with the REACH Foundation as beneficiary.

The concert, billed "Reach Out with Chad Borja," will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Cebu City Marriott Hotel on March 19. Borja agreed to sing for free.

Me'Ann, Haidi, Sandra and the other organizers of the concert hope that they will not only be able to raise enough money to complete the new center but also spread to a wider public a better understanding of the challenges that face children with autism.

"Makaka-graduate na ako. Salamat sa **SAFE 4 SR!**"



Ngayon, makakasiguro ka na sa graduation mo sa College dahil sa **SAFE 4 SR.**

Ang **SAFE 4 SR (Student's Assistance Fund for a Strong Republic)** ay isang **0% interest** loan program para sa mga graduating 4th at 3rd year college students. Malaking tulong ito para sa mga bayarin tulad ng tuition, books, thesis papers, board and lodging bills, graduation fees at iba't-iba pang mga educational expenses.

Naipamahagi na sa mga sumusunod na Colleges at Universities sa NCR ang pondong nakalaan para sa inyo, at kasalukuyang hinahanda na ang para sa mga ibang paaralan sa buong Pilipinas.

Tignan ang listahan ng mga colleges at universities na kabilang sa **SAFE 4 SR** at hanapin ang inyong **Student Financial Assistance** unit para sa inyong mga katanungan ukol sa programmang ito.

SAFE 4 SR, Pangakong natupad na!



Arellano University - Manila
Arellano University - Pasay
Arellano University - Pasig
Air Link International Aviation School
Asia School of Arts and Sciences - The College of I.T.
Asian College of Science and Technology - Cubao
Asian College of Science and Technology - Novaliches
Caloocan City University
Central Colleges of the Philippines
Centro Escolar University
Child Jesus College
Children of Mary Immaculate College
City of Malabon University
Colegio De San Juan de Letran
Colegio De San Lorenzo
Concordia College
Do La Salle Araneta - University
Do La Salle University
Do Los Santos - STI College of Health Professions, Inc.
Divine Mercy College Foundation, Inc.
Dr. Carlos S. Lanting College
Far Eastern University
Governor Andres Pascual College
Guzman College of Science and Technology
Holy Rosary College
Interface Computer College - Caloocan
Interface Computer College - Manila
International Academy of Management and Economics
La Consolacion College (Manila)
Manila Doctors College, Inc.
Manuel L. Quezon University
MAPUA Institute of Technology
Metro Business College - Pasay
Metro Manila College
Metropolitan Hospital College of Nursing
National College of Business Arts - Cubao
National College of Business Arts - Fairview
Navotas Polytechnic College
Nova Computer College

Our Lady of Fatima College - Quezon City
Our Lady of Fatima University (F.M.S. Foundation)
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Pasig
Perpetual Help College of Manila
Philippine Merchant Marine School Sta. Cruz
Philips College Foundation, Inc.
Polytechnic University of the Philippines
Saint Francis of Assisi College System
Samson College of Science and Technology - QC
San Juan de Dios Educational Foundation, Inc.
Santa Isabel College
St. Claire College of Caloocan
St. Francis Divine College
St. John Berchman's School of Manila Foundation, Inc.
St. Joseph's College of Quezon City
St. Louis College - Valenzuela
St. Paul University of Manila
Sta. Catalina College
STI College - Cubao
STI College - Edsa Crossing
STI College - Guadalupe
STI College - Makati
STI College - Muñoz Edsa
STI College - Tait
System Plus Computer College - Caloocan
System Plus Computer College - Quezon City
Technological Institute of the Philippines - Manila
Technological Institute of the Philippines - Quezon City
Technological University of the Philippines
The Fisher's Valley College
The National Teachers College
The Philippine Women's University Manila - Manila
The Philippine Women's University Manila - Quezon City
Trinity College of Quezon City
University Bell Informatics Computer Institute, Inc.
University of Perpetual Help
University of the East - Caloocan
University of Santo Tomas
West Bay College
World City Colleges

A priority concern of
President Gloria

More questions? Contact us.

Presidential Assistant Dennis L. Cunanan (Office of the Presidential Assistant for Youth Affairs)
4/F Mabini Hall, Malacanang, Manila Tel Nos: (02) 734-4232, 733-8743, 735-6201 local 6438
Fax No: (02) 733-8766 Mobile No: 0927-5233967 Email: safe4sr2004@yahoo.com

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Security heightened anew in wake of Madrid blasts

From page A1

The al-Qaida terrorist network has claimed responsibility for the almost simultaneous explosions. (See story on Page A10.)

"There seems to be an escalation again," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales told reporters yesterday. "It seems to me that terrorist activities come in waves, and I think we are probably entering into a new one and we have to be far more vigilant."

The Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday said that, thus far, no Filipino casualty has been reported in the terror bombings on four commuter trains in Madrid, which killed nearly 200 people and injured more than 1,400 others. But at least one 21-year-old Filipino has been reported missing.

Contrasting views

There are about 40,000 Filipinos in Spain; about half of them live in Madrid.

Locally, authorities are investigating the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf Group in the fire that hit SuperFerry 14 on Feb. 27. Most of the 899 passengers and crew survived, but 27 dead bodies have already been recovered and 92 people are still missing.

Armed Forces spokesperson Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero refused to consider the involvement of the Abu Sayyaf in the SuperFerry 14 incident, saying the AFP has yet to receive any reports to that effect.

But Gonzales said the government was taking the Abu Sayyaf's claim that it put a suicide bomber on board SuperFerry 14 seriously.

As proof, he noted the recent arrest of a Filipino Muslim convert north of Manila who was found with explosives and firearms and is suspected of links to the regional terror network, Jamaah Islamiyah.

"When they use converts, it means they are using people who are familiar with Manila, with Cebu, with the Christian-dominated centers," he said.

International cooperation

A senior Interpol official said the attack on the four jam-packed trains in Madrid underscored the fact that "in

ternational police cooperation is more important now than it was before."

Interpol secretary general Ronald Noble had earlier expressed "profound shock and disgust" over the attacks. He offered to help Spanish authorities to track down those behind the brutal attacks.

A Spanish police official will be among some 200 representatives from 63 countries expected to attend the 18th Interpol Asian Regional Conference on March 16 and 17 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong, said Supt. Mao Aplasca of the Philippine Center for Transnational Crimes.

The conference will also gather top police officials from war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan, the two main targets of the United States' anti-terrorism efforts, the official told reporters.

One program that could help Madrid investigators is the comprehensive records database stationed in France. It includes DNA records, fingerprints, stolen vehicles and documents, information on child pornography, and profiles of fugitives.

New communication system

Delegates will also discuss the new "global communication system" dubbed I 24/7 which will allow all Interpol members to exchange information instantly, according to Noble.

The regional conference will be followed by the Project Pacific Interpol Working Meeting on March 18 to 19, attended by many of the same delegates.

The second conference will deal with creating a specific forum for counter-terrorism including an "exchange of information to identify probable personalities who are working in the Asia-Pacific region," a senior Interpol official said.

This will include forging plans to "target... terrorist-enabling infrastructures," a document from the conference said.

"After what happened in Madrid, the need for international police cooperation is even stronger," the Interpol official said even though the meetings were

scheduled before the bombings in Madrid.

DFA spokesperson Julia Heidemann told reporters that Philippine Embassy staff in Madrid were scouring hospitals, morgues and temporary relief centers in the Spanish capital to determine if there were Filipino victims.

Filipino missing

Philippine Ambassador to Madrid Joseph Bernardo reported that a 21-year-old Filipino was reported missing by his parents after the blasts. Bernardo said the unidentified Filipino was riding one of the trains on Thursday but it was not known if he was a victim or not.

Heidemann said Bernardo reported difficulty in confirming whether Filipinos were among the victims because of the similarity in Filipino and Spanish names and surnames. The list of casualties released by the Spanish police did not indicate nationality.

DFA Secretary Delia Albert, who is on official visit in Istanbul, Turkey, said the Philippines "condemns in the strongest possible terms this dastardly and cowardly attacks" against innocent civilians.

She expressed hope that the perpetrators would be brought to justice, adding that the Philippines "stand(s) by the brave people of Spain in this hour of grief and sorrow."

Greater vigilance

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for heightened vigilance both here and abroad following the deadly bomb blasts in Madrid which her government condemned as a "dastardly, cowardly attack."

"I join the whole of humanity in expressing our outrage over this incident and our grief to the families of the victims," the President said.

"Once more, this incident marks the ferocity and randomness by which terrorism strikes. We must and shall never let our guard down especially at a time when democracy is undergoing tests in various places of the world," Ms Macapagal added. With reports from Jerome Aning; AP, AFP



BLOCKING the speaker's chair before the voting for Roh's impeachment begins, members of a small pro-Roh party in parliament are removed by opposition lawmakers and security guards. They tried to stop the Speaker from calling a vote for the impeach bid. AFP

South Korean president impeached, stripped ...

From page A1

progress. Park had warned Thursday that he might exercise his right to have security officials clear the lawmakers.

Live television footage showed security officers dragging out screaming Uri members one by one.

Tears, national anthem

As the voting proceeded by secret ballot, opposition members applauded and screaming Roh backers chanted that it was a "coup." Other Uri Party members broke into tears and sang the national anthem.

Park admonished them, saying, "You asked for it."

Lawmakers loyal to Roh had planned to stall for time in the hope that the ouster motion would automatically expire on Friday evening.

As the clock ticked for opposition members to call a vote, rival factions cursed and shoved as they fought for the parliamentary speaker's podium.

Camp out

Dozens of pro-Roh Uri Party members had camped out around the podium overnight after South Korea's two main opposition parties first tried to call a vote on Thursday but were blocked.

A 20-minute scuffle erupted earlier yesterday when about 20 opposition legislators stormed the National Assembly hall to try to remove their rivals, who were sleeping around the dais, according to Assembly officials and footage broadcast on local television stations.

Later about 200 Roh supporters briefly exchanged punches with riot police who blocked them from marching on the National Assembly building. They chanted,

"Let's block impeachment!"

Apology

President Roh apologized for the chaos and urged calm.

"Regardless of which side is wrong, I offer my sincere apology for the situation in which the political confrontation has led to an impeachment move against me," Roh said in a statement read by his senior public relations secretary, Lee Byong-wan. "I strongly urge all sides to regain self-control."

The Grand National Party rejected Roh's overture, saying in a statement that it was "not a true apology and he didn't admit his wrongdoing." The Millennium Democratic Party concurred: "The arrow has already left the bow."

'I'll kill them all'

Earlier Friday, a man attempted to drive his car up the steep steps into the Assembly hall in protest. When the car stalled, the man got out and set the car on fire, said police Sgt. Lee Sun-kyun.

"I will kill them all!" the man shouted as Assembly guards overpowered him.

On Thursday, a Roh supporter set himself on fire outside parliament, shouting "Let's block impeachment!"

Flash point

The embattled leader has yet to apologize for the flash point of the impeachment attempt: accusations that he broke election laws by stumping for the Uri Party in the upcoming April 15 parliamentary campaign.

Roh does not belong to a party, but has said he wants to join Uri.

The National Elections Commission ruled last week that Roh had engaged in illegal electioneering, but that the infraction was minor, not warranting criminal charges. AP and AFP

Cell phone thieves mock Mr. Iron Fist himself

From page A1

atorial candidate, Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padilla, and that of the senator's secretary as his campaign party pressed flesh in a Cebu market on Wednesday afternoon.

The separate thefts were the first petty crimes reported from the camp of Lacson, who is running for president on an anti-crime-and-corruption platform.

"At first I thought I just misplaced the phone or that it fell while I was getting out of my vehicle. When I mentioned this to my aides, they said I had joined the ranks of snatching victims," Padilla said Thursday night just before boarding a flight back to Manila.

Padilla said the phone, a Nokia 6310 model, was quite important to him because it was his line to local leaders and other campaign organizers.

To catch a thief

The congressman quoted organizers as saying that Lacson's secretary, Jane Rivero, suffered the same fate.

From accounts, Rivero even caught the thief reaching into her vest pocket for her

cellular phone.

She tried to accost the thief but the latter ran off. A local security aide went after him and caught up.

In the ensuing scuffle, the thief managed to escape and subsequently disappeared into the crowd that had gathered at the Tabunok market in Talisay, Cebu.

Padilla said he had instructed his aides to report the theft to his service provider in order to have the phone line disabled and the unit blocked.

The thefts marred what was an otherwise "overwhelming" sortie for Lacson, who once served as Cebu City's top police officer.

He headed the Cebu Metropolitan District Command of the then Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police from 1989 to 1992.

During his sortie, Lacson called on Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia and on Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal, who lauded his anti-corruption efforts.

Reporters covering the campaign of the other opposition candidate, Fernando Poe Jr. of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino, have reported losing their cellular phones to thieves while following him on his sorties.



Increase your efficiency and competitive advantages at once.

© 4 Processor
the ability to do



Php 39,700

Promo

Upgrade Options:

Add 2,000 and Get Logitech Cordless Freedom Access (wireless Keyboard and Mouse)

Add 10,800 and Get AOC LCD Flat Panel 15" Monitor (Flat Panel displays which provide vibrant visuals)

Add 5,500 for MS Windows XP Operating System

For more information visit our site

<http://www.computer.com.ph> • sales@titan.ph

Titan Extreme is available at the following store

3rd Level Festival Supermall/Ilinvest
Muntinlupa City
Tel: (02) 850-3629/850-3677

Streamline EOC/OC, Along Aguilal Highway
Bacoor/Cavite
Tel: (046) 970-7025/970-7071

12A Dona Juana S. Rodriguez Ave.
New Manila Quezon City
Tel: (02) 721-2465/721-4482

T4-2-3 BMW Lane, 3rd Flr. Virramall
Shopping Center San Juan
Tel: (02) 724-6793/724-3007

18 2nd Floor Acacia Lane, Virramall, San Juan
Tel: (02) 725-8519/725-8792

196 Cyber Zone SM North EDSA Quezon City
Tel: (02) 925-4565/925-4562

3rd Level Phase 3 Sta. Lucia East Grandmall
Tel: (02) 682-8618/682-8619



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FOUR DIGIT

4 8 6 3

(In exact order)
SUERTRES

4 2 3

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

MEGALOTTO 6/45

2 11 17 23 25 45

SC tells Kuratong judge to explain

By Philip Tubeza

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered Quezon City Judge Ma. Theresa dela Torre-Yadao to justify her dismissal of the criminal charges against opposition presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson and his 33 other co-accused in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

The high court also told Lacson and his co-accused to comment on the government's petition to revive the charges against them.

In a one-page en banc resolution, the SC gave Yadao and the accused 10 days to explain their side on the Office of the Solicitor General's (OSG) petition that asked the SC to reverse Yadao's decision.

Lacson's co-accused include police officers Romeo Acop, Francisco

Zubia Jr., Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao II.

"Acting on the special action for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus, the court resolved, without giving due course to the petition, to require the respondents to comment thereon within 10 days from notice hereof," the resolution said.

Saying that Yadao's actions bordered on felony and libel, the OSG asked the SC to order the re-rafle of the case to another court and have that court immediately issue arrest warrants against the accused.

In a 205-page petition, Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo said Yadao's decision to junk the charges against Lacson and the other accused was an "assault" on the integrity of the entire judiciary.

"(Yadao) exhibited no qualms in resorting to acts that teeter on the brink of felonies such as falsification of public documents, libel and knowingly rendering an unjust judgement," Benipayo said.

Yadao dismissed the case on Nov. 13 purportedly due to lack of probable cause. The prosecution filed a motion for reconsideration, but she dismissed the appeal.

Meanwhile, prosecution lawyer Arno Sanidad accused defense counsels of delaying moves to correct "obvious omissions" in the transcripts of at least two hearings on the case.

Yesterday, the defense asked for a five-day extension to comment on the prosecution's motion to correct the transcripts. They were supposed to issue their comment on March 8. With Edson Tandoc Jr.



MEMBERS of Gabriela demonstrate outside the offices of Destileria Limtuaco in Quezon City and urge for a boycott of a liquor product, commercials of which allegedly degrade women and children. JOAN BONDOC

'Kinse' makers charged

FIVE child rights advocates yesterday charged before the Department of Justice Destileria Limtuaco and an ad agency for the allegedly offensive "kinse años" Napoleon Brandy commercials.

In their three-page joint affidavit, lawyer Katrina Legarda, activist Maria Isabel Ongpin, Eric Mallonga, Ray Salvosa, and Minerva Ambrosio said that by coming out with the "kinse años" advertisements, the brandy maker and the advertising firm SLG violated the law against the abuse and exploitation of children.

Billboards with the advertisement ask in Filipino: "Have you ever tried a 15-year-old?"

"Its meaning is clear," the complainants said. "It offers a child to the public in an indecent, suggestive, obscene and pornographic manner."

Their complaint said, the "obscene advertisements ... deprave, corrupt and [shock] the ordinary and common sense of men."

Charged were Destileria Limtuaco directors and officers Julius Limpe, Betty Limpe Ngo, Lily Limpe, Olivia Limpe-Aw, Bessie Joy Limpe, Pastor G. Bustos and Lourdes Galang as well as the officers of Convoy Marketing Corp., Limtuaco's affiliate.

SLG ad agency officers Romy Singson and Jake Tadena were also included in the charge sheet.

The complainants said that the billboard ads were also accompanied by "obnoxious, depraved, and vulgar" ads in radio.

In the radio plugs, a wife confronts her husband about her suspicions that he was having an affair with a 15-year old. Philip Tubeza

2 Navotas fish traders ambushed; one dies

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

A FISH broker was killed while her sister was seriously wounded after four men opened fire at them yesterday morning in Navotas.

Carmela Chua, 44, of San Jose, Navotas, died of five gunshot wounds in the different parts of her body while her sister Myrna Cruz, 46, of Daang Hari, Navotas, was taken for treatment to the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital for gun-

shot wounds in her face and nape.

The sisters, both big-time fish brokers, were on their way to their office in Malabon City on an owner-type jeep (WFR-150) when four men with .45-caliber pistols showed up on the street and opened fire at them.

After the shooting, the suspects reportedly took the cellular phone and bag of Cruz.

Aside from robbery, police are also looking at business rivalry as a motive in the attack.

Insanity gets wife-killer off the hook

By Luige del Puerto

THE PASIG City Regional Trial Court on Thursday exempted a man from criminal liability for the killing of his common-law wife eight years ago.

Branch 262 Judge Isagani Geronimo instead directed jail officials to immediately commit Francisco Baleros to the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong City after doctors testified that he was insane at the time of the killing.

Baleros, of A. Feliciano Street, Barangay Sagad, Pasig City, was earlier put on trial for stabbing to

death his partner, Lourdes Arino, in March 1996.

Despite the court's findings, however, Geronimo ordered Baleros to pay his partner's kin P60,000 in damages.

"It was held that one who suffers from insanity at the time of the commission of the offense can not, in a legal sense, entertain a criminal intent," the judge said in his decision. "(He) can't be held criminally responsible for his acts."

During the trial, two psychiatrists evaluated Baleros' mental condition and both found that the accused had "episodes" of insanity.

NCMH's Dr. Mario Oavenga, who treated Baleros between March 8, 2002, and June 7, 2002, told the court that Baleros had suffered from the mental illness even prior to the murder.

Afflicted with auditory hallucinations, Baleros was hearing voices in his head, ordering him "to kill," the psychiatrist said.

Court records showed that Baleros attacked his partner during an argument inside their home in Pasig City.

He fled but later surrendered to the police, who testified hearing Baleros talk to himself.

METROBRIEFS

Romualdez yacht

THE LUXURY yacht that burned in the Manila Bay Thursday afternoon was owned by former Leyte Rep. Alfred Romualdez. According to his wife, former actress Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez, the blaze began as the boat was undergoing repairs. She said the yacht was gutted but remained afloat because of its steel hull. This, she said, removed any dangers of an oil spill. Cristina, after whom the M/V Lady Kring was named, said the boat was "old" and damages were at P20 million.

Marinel Cruz, Tarra Quismundo

Younger, bigger

THE POLICE arrested before dawn yesterday two boys, aged 14 and 15, for allegedly stealing P200,000 from a grocery in Marikina City. The 15-year-old's sister owned the store. The boy said he was coerced to rob the Balingis Grocery Store on de la Paz Street, by their oldest brother, Mandy Shobal, whom he said took the money as soon as he handed it to him. His 14-year-old accomplice, acted as lookout while he broke into the store through an air-conditioning duct and took the money from a drawer. Luige del Puerto

Parolee in murder

ARNOLD Bandal, 39, a homicide convict who is out on parole may soon find himself back in jail after he was implicated in the fatal stabbing of pedicab driver Ricardo Ligata, 44, of NPC compound, Sta. Mesa, Thursday night. According to investigators, Bandal arrived at the GSIS building in Sta. Mesa at about 6 p.m. looking to settle a score with someone from the area. When he could not find his foe, Bandal reportedly vented his ire on Ligata, who just happened to be there, and stabbed him to death. Leila Salaverria

First on local TV; real gruesome scene

IF YOU watch my program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" every Saturday at RPN 9 from 6 to 7 p.m., I wouldn't advise you to watch it today if you're the squeamish type.

As the program's host, I also advise parents not to allow their children watch it.

We will show a real gruesome scene, the cutting of the right ear of a kidnap victim by his kidnapper. The scene was recorded on video camera and sent to the victim's family.

The guy who cut the ear was so masochistic he placed the ear on a plate. Again, the whole process was recorded on video.

We can't help but show it. We want our viewers to have a glimpse of evil.

How did we get hold of the gruesome scene on video?

I was able to convince some people at the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktf) to give us the video. It was given to Naktf by the victim's family.

The victim was Ali Khan, a British national, who was kidnapped while riding in a taxicab from a five-star hotel in Makati to another appointment in the town. Ali Khan fell asleep during the ride, after apparently sniffing a chemical inside the cab.

When he woke up, Khan was already in chains.

His kidnapper, George "Petrus" Yao, a Hong Kong

ON
TARGETRamon
Tulfo

national, operated alone. He was able to get P16 million for Khan's release.

Yao lived with his Filipino wife at Poinsettia and Orchids Streets, Barangay BF, Espiritu 4, Camella Homes, Bacoor, Cavite. It was here where he took his kidnap victims.

To prove that he meant business, Yao cut Khan's ear while recording it on video. He sent the video footage to Khan's business partner in Makati who in turn sent it to Khan's family in Britain.

The Naktf obtained the video from the British Embassy.

Yao was described by agents who tailed him as a genius. He knew he was being monitored but he enjoyed it and took it as a challenge.

Eventually, agents from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp), the primary unit employed by Naktf, caught up with Yao. Isafp agents proved more cunning and intelligent than Yao.

Yao could have enjoyed the P16-million loot from Khan's

family. But like most criminals, he was not satisfied with a single successful caper.

He again kidnapped Alastair Joseph Ongslingswan, a resident Chinese Filipino-American.

A computer expert, Yao communicated with Ongslingswan's girlfriend in the US by e-mail and demanded a \$600,000 ransom.

By then Isafp agents, through painstaking research, had already pinpointed his hideout and placed him under surveillance.

Isafp agents, along with agents from the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer), raided Yao's house and rescued Ongslingswan.

You will see on "Isumbong" the reenactment of the raid by Isafp and Pacer agents at Yao's house.

You will feel proud that we have an agency like the Naktf. And you will feel safer knowing that our lawmen can match the wits of criminals.

And the next time you ride in a cab, you will be wary of a chemical that some cab drivers might put on you to get you to sleep. Khan and Ongslingswan were put to sleep by Yao inside a cab he was driving. (Some cab drivers have been doing that to their passengers.)

United Auctioneers, Inc.

TRUCKS, VANS & HEAVY EQUIPMENT

UA

3 DAY PUBLIC AUCTION

UA

INSPECTION & REGISTRATION START TOMORROW

MARCH 18, 19 & 20, 2004
(THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY)Sale starts at 8:30 AM SHARP!
Catch The Best At

SUBIC BAY

INSPECTION DATES: MARCH 14, 15, 16 & 17, 2004
(SUNDAY TO WEDNESDAY)REGISTRATION DATES: MARCH 14 TO 20, 2004
(SUNDAY TO SATURDAY)

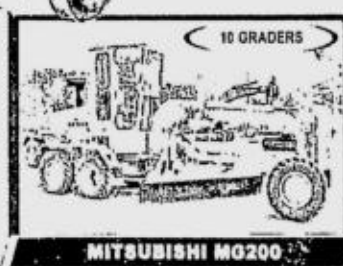
25 BULLDOZERS

CAT D3B



50 EXCAVATORS

HITACHI EX400



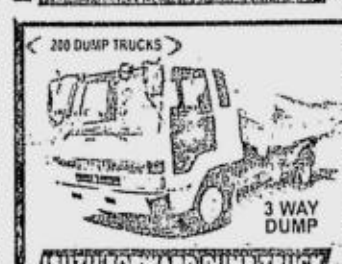
10 GRADERS

MITSUBISHI MG200



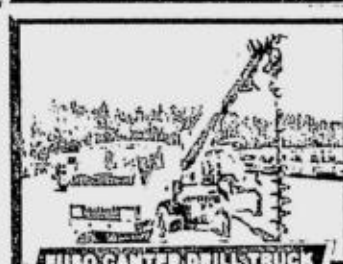
20 TRACTOR HEADS

FUDO 400T LAGOR HEAD



200 DUMP TRUCKS

SUZUKI FORWARD DUMP TRUCK



FUDO CARTER DRILL TRUCK



120 ALUM VANS

SUZUKI LUXURY VAN



ALSO AVAILABLE: LOCALLY ACQUIRED VEHICLE

SUZUKI LUXURY VAN



TOYOTA HI-ACE

LOCATION MAP

SUBIC

BLDG. 1455 ARGONAUT

HIGHWAY, SUBIC BAY

FREEPORT, PHILIPPINES

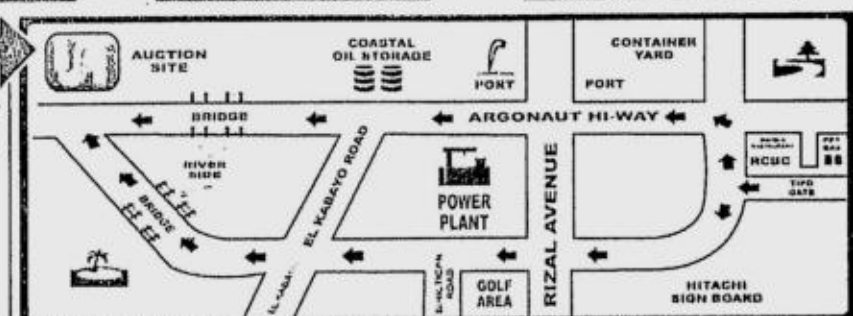
TEL NOS:

10471 252-1129

252-1155 to 58

FAX NO:

10471 252-5569

MANILA TEL NOS: 1021 9297868 • 9205501 • 426-3908 • 453-7470 / 74
FAX NO: 1021 929-0260 E-MAIL: info@uauctioneers.com WEBSITE: www.uauctioneers.com



Dr. Anna Marie Madamba-Burgos, Obstetrician-Gynecologist, high-risk pregnancy specialist. Platinum member since 2001.

“When you welcome
new life every day,
experience counts.”

GLOBE PLATINUM.

Maximum connectivity, with a 24-hour Helpdesk and a spare SIM in every card.

At Globe Platinum, your card is more than just a privilege. It's also access: a spare SIM you can activate anytime, with one call to the Platinum Helpdesk. We're here for you 24 hours, 7 days a week, working anytime you do. It's expertise that's become instinct, constantly put through the toughest test there is: real life. Which is why Dr. Madamba's patients may be newborn — but her Globe Platinum is anything but.

Experience Platinum for real. Call 730-1888 today.

Exclusively for Globe HandypHONE subscribers with either:
• Average monthly billing of P4,000 up for the last 12 months
• A subscription to the Platinum Plan (P5,000 MSF)

Membership as Globe Platinum is subject to internal screening processes. For Platinum members with company-assigned Globe HandypHONE, please call the GlobeSolutions Hotline: 730-1-999 for membership options.



PLATINUM. YOUR OWN RULES.

making great things possible **Globe** HANDYPHONE

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph
Editor: Teddyvic S. Melendres
Assistant Editor: Edwin M. Villanueva



■ Rockets down Hornets /A30

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ PSC at a loss over petanque (what?) /A25

■ No foldup for Roberto this time /A24



Hotdogs field 3rd import vs Realtors today

ONE import seeks to get back at his former team while another is out to prove his worth when Sta. Lucia Realty and Purefoods collide today in the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

Derrick Brown, who led Purefoods to its last championship in the 2001 Governors Cup, vowed to make the TJ Hotdogs pay for ignoring him this season as he suits up for the Realtors in the 6:30 p.m. mainer.

In the 4:10 p.m. curtain-raiser, Shell tackles Alaska with Marek Ondera still a doubtful starter for the Turbochargers after spraining an ankle against Purefoods in General Santos City last week.

Named best import in the same conference, Brown takes over from Lamayn Wilson as coach Alfrancis Chua and the Realtors try to change their fortunes after a 0-3 start.

Coach Ryan Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs elected to sign up the 6-foot-6 Edner Elisma, Georgia Tech's third all-time shotblock artist in the USNCAA behind former Detroit Piston John Salley and Malcom McKey.

Elisma, the Hotdogs' third import, replaces Reginald Butler, who couldn't help Purefoods avoid successive setbacks to Shell and Alaska. Purefoods' original import, Lenny Cooke, tore his Achilles tendon in a winning game against Coca-Cola last Feb. 25.

"Brown wants to show the TJ Hotdogs that they made the wrong decision. He was offended when they didn't sign him up," said a source close to the 6-foot-4 Brown.

The same source said Brown felt slighted when the import offered his services to



PBA returnee Brown vows to make the TJ Hotdogs pay for ignoring him this season.

ROMY HOMILLADA

STANDINGS	W	L
San Miguel Beer	3	0
Talk N Text	3	1
Ginebra	3	1
Coca-Cola	2	1
Red Bull	2	1
Shell	2	1
Purefoods	1	3
FedEx	0	3
Sta. Lucia	0	3

GAMES TODAY

(Araneta Coliseum)
4:10 p.m.—Shell vs Alaska
6:30 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia Realty

Purefoods only to be turned down.

Since the tournament allows imports with a height ceiling of 6-foot-8, Gregorio and the TJ Hotdogs seemed

justified in opting for the high-leaping Elisma.

With a 1-3, win-loss record, the TJ Hotdogs need to stop their skid since they still have to meet Talk 'N Text and San Miguel Beer, teams which boast of the biggest frontlines in the league.

Brian Wethers, who failed to fill in Ondera's shoes against Red Bull Barako last Wednesday, will be pitted against Alaska's Galen Young, hands-down the most versatile import of the conference.

The Aces are locked in a three-way tie at third (2-1) with the Coca-Cola Tigers and the Barakos while the Turbochargers lost three of their four games in a tie with the TJ Hotdogs.

June Navarro

All eyes on Pacquiao; HBO, Murad arriving on Tuesday



PACQUIAO

GETTY IMAGES

By Salven L. Lagumbay
Contributor

CURIOSITY over world boxing sensation Manny Pacquiao hits a new peak with the scheduled visit of American promoter Murad Muhammad, who will be accompanied by an HBO crew this Tuesday to shoot footages of the reigning consensus and Ring Magazine featherweight king.

The HBO crew, led by its producer for HBO Sports Brook

Silva-Braga, will interview Pacquiao and other boxing personalities for a promotional feature on the May 8 fight with WBA/IBF featherweight champion Juan Manuel Marquez.

HBO had also taken footages of Pacquiao walking along Times Square in New York last month where he visited HBO bigwigs and eventually agreed to a two-fight deal worth millions of dollars.

ALL/A25

MAKAKATIKIM IKANG NAING! SWERTE!

May mas madali at mas masarap na paraan!

Bumili lang sa Goldilocks ng P75 worth with any Coke product...

May sure-win scratch card ka na!

Win up to P1 million!

May chance ka pa to win another P1 million sa text raffle!

EVERYBODY SWERTE!

Goldilocks

HOW TO JOIN:

- Every P475.00 minimum food purchase (single receipt) from any Goldilocks Foodshop or Bakeshop, along with any Coke product, entitles a customer to a scratch card.
- To participate, the customer must present his/her receipt. The receipt will then be stamped with "CLAIMED."
- For senior citizens, their purchase net of discount should be at least P475.00 to get one scratch card.
- Valid for all store transactions: dine-in and take-out including cake orders and party packages. Not included in the purchase of Gift Certificates. However, redemption of Gift Certificates at the store following the minimum food purchase requirement entitles the customer to a scratch card or its equivalent.
- Only Goldilocks company-owned and franchise stores are authorized to release scratch cards. Third parties cannot re-sell or release any scratch card.
- Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification date shall be forfeited with prior clearance from BFAD.
- Employees of Goldilocks Bakeshop, Inc., its affiliates, franchise operators, stores, advertising and PR agencies and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.

PRIZES AT STAKE:

The following prizes may be won:

- 1 Million Pesos
- P40,000
- P10,000
- Cellphones
- 10% Foodshop discount
- Goldilocks Fluffy Mamon
- 12 oz. Coke Product
- P40 Off (on certain Goldilocks products)

TWO WAYS TO WIN:

PART 1: INSTANT PRIZE

- ALL CARDS ARE WINNING CARDS! The customer can find out what his instant prize is by scratching the four slots on the scratch card. The scratch card will reveal three out of four slots with the same prize. The customer wins that prize.
- In order to claim the instant prize, the bigger portion of the perforated scratch card should be surrendered to the cashier. The smaller portion of the scratch card serves as the SMS raffle entry and may be used to join the SMS portion. (Please refer to Part 2: SMS portion)
- Only winning scratch cards with authenticated security code will be honored. Tampered/ altered scratch cards will be considered null and void.
- All minor instant-win prizes (Goldilocks Fluffy Mamon, Coke

PART 2: SMS PORTION

For another chance to win 1 Million Pesos, a grand electronic raffle draw is included in the promotion.

- Scratch the silver panel with the SMS code.
- Text: **GOLDILOCKS** <Code>/<Complete Name>/<Address>/<Age>

For example:
GOLDILOCKS ABC12345/Juan Cruz/123 Paco St. Manila/25

Send to:
2688 for SMART, Adict Mode & Talk N Text
2363 for Globe and Touch Mobile

- The customers will then receive a reply text confirming their entry.
- For succeeding entries, just text Goldilocks <SMS code> to the above-mentioned SMS numbers.
- For example: Text Goldilocks ABC12345 to 2363
- Each SMS entry costs P47.50.
- Each SMS entry is qualified for the Grand E-Draw wherein Goldilocks will be giving away P47.50.
- Deadline for entries and draw dates are as follows:

ENTRY DATES	DEADLINE FOR E-DRAW	E-DRAW DATE
January 15 - March 31, 2004	March 31, 2004	April 1, 2004

- The E-draw shall be held with the supervision of representatives from BFAD and Goldilocks Bakeshop, Inc.
- There will be 1 winner of P47.50, tax-free.
- The winner of the P47.50 Grand Prize may claim the prize only at any Goldilocks Head Office.

HOW TO CLAIM THE MAJOR PRIZE:

- Winners will have to present original and photocopy of at least two (2) valid identification cards (such as driver's license, SSS, TIN, school or company ID, birth certificate) and Cellphone SIM card.
- Winners will be notified via registered mail and congratulatory ads in leading newspapers. Any travel expenses that may be incurred by winners in claiming their prize shall be to their account.
- Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from notification shall be forfeited with prior clearance from BFAD.
- Instant-Prize and e-draw winners authorize Goldilocks to disclose and publicize their names and other particulars as determined by Goldilocks in any mode or manner as Goldilocks deems appropriate.
- The decision of Goldilocks Bakeshop, Inc., with the concurrence of BFAD is deemed final.

MANILA:

Goldilocks Bakeshop, Inc.
Head Office
The Marketing Dept.
438 Shaw Blvd.
Mandaluyong City 1558

CEBU:

All Fresh Food Products, Inc.
The Marketing Dept.
3/F Collingwood Bldg.
North Road Bessah, Mandaue City, Cebu

DAVAO:

Earth Grain, Inc.
The Marketing Dept.
Diversión Road,
Bo. Buhangin,
Davao City

Per DOM-BFAD Permis. No. 0937 series of 2003.



ROSALLES in danger of missing cut

Jenny struggles with 75; Korean ahead

TUCSON, Arizona—South Korea's Jung Yeon Lee flirted with a 59 before settling for a 60 Thursday as she matched the course record and took a three-shot first-round lead in the opening event of the LPGA season.

Lee challenged the LPGA Tour's single-round scoring record held by Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam, who isn't playing this tournament.

Her 10-under effort that included two eagles and six birdies at the Dell Urich Golf Course matched the record set last year by Meg Malon. Kristi Albers also shot 10-under

in 1998 when the course was a par-72 layout.

While Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin got off to a big start with a 68 that left her tied for 12th, Jenny Rosales kicked off her LPGA campaign with a woeful 75.

Struggling with menstrual pains the past two days that even forced her to quit after nine holes in Wednesday's pro-am, Rosales had a birdie-less round. She took a triple-bogey on the par-3 9th hole and also had two bogeys.

A 25-year-old who was born in London and lives in Orlando, Florida, Lee had a chance to match the LPGA-record 59 Sorenstam shot in the second round of the 2001

Standard Register PING. But she missed a birdie putt at the 18th hole.

In fact, Lee said she didn't realize until after the round was over that the course was a par-70 and that she was so close to the golf grail of 59.

"Actually, I thought it was a 72," she said. "After I finished the (final) putt, they said, 'par-70'. So I said, 'Oh, my. I just missed the putt.'"

"That's a shame," England's Laura Davies said of Lee's miss on 18. "It would have been nice to see because if there's a chance to shoot 59, this is the week."

"If someone can get good early morning conditions when the greens are rolling a bit better you can do it. And she proved it."

"Well, last year, Meg Mallon had a putt for 59," added Davies, who shared third on 65 with South Korean Seol-An Jeon. "One day someone is going to do it." Even so, she said she couldn't feel too disappointed, since she came into the round with few expectations.

On Wednesday, she was receiving ultrasound and heat treatment on a sore right wrist, the result she thought of jarring it in a practice round. **AFP With a report from Jong Arcano**

No foldup for Roberto this time

BACOLOD—Lora Roberto completed an expected romp in the 41st Southern Ladies Open golf championship yesterday, dominating the field with a closing 57 points for a whopping 11-point victory over teammate Tracy Locsin at the Bacolod Golf and Country Club at Hacienda Binitin in Murcia here.

Roberto finished with a bogey on the par-70 layout but that was the only black mark in an otherwise impressive card that included four birdies, as the top Southwoods bet fired a three-under medal round. She wound up with a 54-hole total of 166 points, after earlier rounds of 55 and 54, to claim the overall crown.

The victory redeemed Roberto from her late-round foldups in past campaigns, including the recent RP Ladies Open where she led by five strokes heading into the final round and wound up third.

It was Roberto's first victory after winning the Luzvimin Cup two years ago and she hopes to flash the same superb form when she leads the RP team, which includes Lucy Landicho and former ace jun-golfer Jayvie Agojo, in the Queen Sirikit Cup in China next month.

Locsin scored 54 points then beat Valley's Aileen Rose Yao in sudden death to claim the title in the championship division of the event conducted by the National Golf Association of the Philippines.

Yao made 52 points and wound up tied at 155 with Locsin.

Former RP Ladies Open champion Carmellette Villaroman limped home with a 49 for a 149 and finished third in the annual event sponsored by DHL Worldwide Express, WWW Express, Petron Corp. Philippine Sports Commission, Gopez Corp., Sugarland Hotel, Directories Philippines Corp., Hans Brumann Jeweler, Casi-

no Filipino Hotel, Mitsubishi Motors, Vice Admiral Luisito Fernandez, Bredco, Nestlé Waters Phils. Inc. and Mizuno.

Roberto, 24, also powered Southwoods to victory in the team competition. The squad, which included Locsin, Villaroman and Mia Piccio, posted a 244 total to beat Alabang's 234. Wack Wack finished third with 226.

Bacolod's Shella Mari Dollosa rallied with a 49 to rule Class A with 130, seven points ahead of Hilda Badong of Riviera (42-123), who defeated two-day leader Mencie Millonado (41-123) of Wack Wack in the countback.

Wack Wack's Eloisa Campos also scored a runaway victory in Class B with a 109 after a 38, beating Pamplona's Cynthia Mendieta (38-103) and teammate Rosario Dimson (36-101) for the crown.

Grace Bañas of Bacolod reigned supreme in Class C with a 101 after a 35 while Alabang's Alice Andrada placed second with 98 after a 29. PDO's Judith Orimaco finished third with a 30 for a 96.

Alabang's Tina Javella copped the Class D crown with a 100 after a 32, nipping Pueblo's Ana Roa, who had a 36 and a 99. Justin Braga of Victorias had a 38 and a 96 for third.

Meanwhile, Tina Javellana of Alabang ruled the seniors category with an 84, after a 40, for a three-point victory over Wack Wack's Millonado, who had a 39-81.



ROBERTO gets the monkey off her back with an 11-point victory.

NGAP board divided on election rules

By Jong Arcano

THE RULES for accepting voters in the coming National Golf Association of the Philippines elections are bound to create a serious rift among the members of the NGAP board.

This was the sentiment of NGAP director Andy Dumlaio who told the INQUIRER yesterday that the recent circular issued by NGAP secretary general Benny Gopez which laid out the requirements for voting needs to be discussed thoroughly by the board before the April 26 polls.

Dumlaio had already questioned the sincerity of the circular, saying it does not adhere to the spirit of reconciliation a number of new NGAP officers like him want to achieve for the golf community before their term expires.

The circular requires all members to pay arrears for three years a month before election day. Also, new members willing to pay the entry fees are still not assured of being able to vote since they still need to go through a process of evaluation by the membership committee.

These stringent requirements, Dumlaio said, will have such a big impact on the NGAP's efforts to woo back the support of the "critical mass" which are the exclusive clubs all over the country.

Even Tommy Manotoc, the man who is leading the group out to challenge the incumbents in the elections, believes it's completely against what they thought were presented to them



DUMLAIO

through the absolute amnesty offer.

"I think it's unfair for the NGAP to change the rules that we feel are different from what we know," he said.

Though his group remains firm in its desire to participate in the elections, Manotoc said the scenario of clubs, which have already made up their minds to go back to the NGAP, pulling out again is not too far-fetched because of the sudden turnaround.

"The reason why so many clubs have agreed to rejoin the NGAP is because of the absolute amnesty offer," said Manotoc.

According to Dumlaio, absolute amnesty requires a club to pay just a P10,000 re-entry fee. All past dues are also deemed waived.

To be disputed in the NGAP elections are 13 board seats. Though the election is not following the block-voting procedure, it is expected that clubs will be supporting the same group that will pave the way for a solid vote.

Join the The Graphics & Publishing Seminar Series

Increase Your Productivity. Sharpen Your Skills. Learn with the Master.

April 13-16, 2004
AIM ACCEED

Conference Center
Benavidez cor. Trasierra Sts.,
Legaspi Village Makati City, Philippines

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Graphic designers, prepress specialists, production artists, digital artists, webmasters, animators, cartoonists, AV producers, multimedia specialists, layout artists, publishers, art directors, photographers, film directors and producers, creative directors, illustrators, educators, IT professionals, corporate communicators, print managers, commercial printers, broadcast professionals, advertising and marketing executives.

SEMINAR TOPICS/PROGRAMME

- April 13, 2004, Tuesday, 9:30am- 4:30pm (Whole day)
• Learning Photoshop CS and Its Applications
- April 14, 2004, Wednesday, 9:30am-4:30pm (Whole day)
• Learning InDesign CS and Its Applications in Desktop Publishing
- April 15, 2004, Thursday, 9:30am-12:30nn
• Fundamentals of Effective Publications Design
- April 15, 2004, Thursday, 1:30pm-5:00pm
• Optimizing Photoshop and Illustrator as Imaging Tools
- April 16, 2004 Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm (Whole day)
• Learning how to make Interactive Websites using Multimedia Tools

Sponsors:



REGISTRATION NOW. Limited Seats Available

Call: (632) 896-0639, 896-0637, 899-6893 • Fax: (632) 896-0637, 890-2101
Email: fiera@info.com.ph, visit website: http://www.fmi.com.ph

From 'Heartbreak Gal' to 'Likeable Lora'

LORA Roberto can afford to smile now. By winning the 41st Southern Ladies Golf Championship on Friday, she has overcome the three "calvaries" that were her dead weights the last 12 months.

At about this time last year, Lora cried a river, so to speak. That's because she blew away a won tournament in Cebu City on the last day of the 40th Southern Ladies, the only national ladies championship organized in the South yearly by the National Golf Association of the Philippines since 1963.

Last January, she was leading both the Philippine Ladies Open and the DHL-NGAP Championship, but collapsed in the homestretch on both occasions.

Until Friday, Lora was known as the "Heartbreak Gal" of Philippine golf.

This time, though, Lora was determined to put an end to her agony.

This time, there was no fourth "calvary."

Not even a sorrowful mystery.

She made sure of that by unleashing a superb 3-under-par 67 on the final day yesterday before a gallery that included Rod V. Feliciano, the president of the NGAP who took an early flight to Bacolod to be with the 81 women competing in the Southern Ladies.

"I was always bugged by sorrow that would soon become a mystery as I seemingly grappled endlessly with last-day pressure," said Lora. "I'm glad the suffering, the hurt, the pain, everything, is over. I was really super-hurt with those three defeats. Now I have my life back. I thank our Dear God and my ever supportive parents for this."

What was the key? The turning point maybe?

"The key was, I had to start telling myself, reminding myself again and

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza



again, that I have to believe in myself," said Lora. "That I can do it. That believing in myself is the only thing that could make me a winner."

If, in the past, Lora personified the typical strong starter with a weak finishing kick, this time around she displayed the sterling traits of a thoroughbred who started strong and ended up routing the field the way a hungry lion would gleefully devour its prey after a short chase that was one-sided from the start.

Gone were the days when Lora would sputter. Playing with aplomb, she dished out a rare wire-to-wire finish, never relinquishing the lead from the first day she grabbed it. She had 55-54-57 for 166 points in the Molave points scoring system that gives 1 point to a double bogey, 2 points to bogey, 3 to par and 4 to birdie. Her 166 at the Bacolod Golf & Country Club in Bacolod City's famed Binitin was a smashing 4-under, giving her an 11-point victory over her fellow Southwoods bet, Tracy Locsin (50-51-54=155), and Aileen Rose Yao of Valley (54-49-52=155). Tracy beat Aileen with a 2-foot birdie in their playoff for second at the par-3 10th after Aileen missed a 5-footer for birdie.

To score her breakthrough win, Lora, 24, had practically begged on bended knees for her parents not to come to Bacolod anymore to watch the last round of the tournament.

Last year, Faustino Roberto had brought along his wife to gallery for their daughter in Cebu. Lora lost a

huge six-point margin to Heidi Chua in a horrible last-day collapse. Heidi has turned pro and will shortly join the Futures Tour in the United States.

"I am really grateful that they (my parents) listened to my plea," said Lora, who picked up the game only seven years ago when she was 17.

Lora, who finished a business degree at Alabang's St. Benedict College, said she attributes her new-found confidence to her several trips overseas that saw her gallery for Jennifer Rosales, the most recent of which was in Gold Coast, Australia, where Jennifer finished in the Top 10.

"While Tiger Woods and Annika Sorenstam are my favorite golfers, Jennifer has always been my inspiration," said Lora, who designs Jennifer's golf outfits that have already earned raves from the fashion-conscious folk of the US LPGA. "Jennifer has always reminded me that my defeats did not mean it's the end of the world. Always, she tells me to be aggressive, that victory would soon come. And now it's here. I cannot thank her enough for her words of encouragement."

"I'm so happy for Lora," said Alice Andrada, the NGAP treasurer who has been the moving force behind the Southern Ladies the last 18 years or so. "I've been closely watching this girl since she started playing the game. She strikes me as a nice and wholesome girl who will really hit it big in no time."

From the "Heartbreak Gal" that she once was, Lora has finally become Philippine golf's "Likeable Lora."

FASTBREAK. My congratulations to Elo Campos, Celda Teopaco Santos' best friend. Elo emerged the best from the 25-strong Wack Wack contingent, winning the Class B title with 34-37-38=109.

PSC at a loss over petanque (what?)

Buhain wonders how RP will host event in 2005 SEAG; Andrada seethes over snub

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE FUROR over petanque—a ball game played on footpath—is getting bigger.

No less than Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain expressed doubts yesterday whether the sport can be successfully played in the country in next year's Southeast Asian Games.

He said there is not even a national sports association for the French sport, which de-

buted in Vietnam last year, compounding the problem of the PSC, which is in charge of preparing Filipino athletes for 2005.

"Where are we going to play it?" asked Buhain. "The selection of athletes (for petanque) should not be the responsibility of the PSC. It should be the POC because there is no NSA for that sport."

Buhain said petanque, one of 34 events approved by the SEAG Federation council recently, is only played in the country by foreign expatriates at the Hotel Intercontinental.



BUHAIN



ANDRADA

Other than that, it has no local following, the obvious reason why the country didn't field an entry in petanque in Vietnam.

However, POC chief Celso Dayrit claimed that the NSA in lawn bowls can be used for petanque. "The athletes are getting ready and the equipment are all available," he said.

Though lawn bowl and petanque are played on a narrow dirt court, they have distinct rules. Petanque is played with three small balls, while lawn bowl have eight large colored balls.

Picking up the cudgels for Buhain, tennis chief Buddy Andrada said he is seeking a Congressional inquiry on why Dayrit allowed petanque, instead of tennis, to make

the list of SEAG sports next year.

"Why are we going to spend government money for that sport which we didn't even have an NSA?" said Andrada.

"There are a lot of sports with solid local following that ought to be included."

Andrada also denied Dayrit's claim that he himself is remiss in his duties as tennis boss. "In fact, I'm inviting him or any representative to visit the Philippine Tennis Association offices and see for himself that local tennis is alive and kicking. We have tournaments every week of the year."

NESTEA ELIMS

New SWU pair survives beach volley debut

By Trina Ibarle

CEBU—Defending women's champion Southwestern University, represented by a new combination, led the opening-day winners of the Visayas eliminations of the 2004 Nester Beach Volley yesterday at the Ayala Center Cebu here.

Despite the sweltering heat, Southwestern's Florian Gutierrez and new partner Marites Natad drubbed Julie Anne Billote and Carmella Bertolano of University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos, 21-15.

University of San Jose-Recoletos, the men's runner-up last year, and Foundation University also prevailed in the tournament sponsored by Speedo, Cebu Pacific, Mikasa, Coppertone, Shakey's, Smart, Powerplant Mall, Ayala Center Cebu, and TGI Friday's.

USJ-R's Jonrey Sasing and Michael Simbajon downed University of San Carlos' Alan Velasco and James Rivera, 21-13, while Rolando Aguas and Kent Bulabon of Foundation fashioned out a 21-10 win over Joel Billores and John Marcel Fimalino of Colegio dela Purisima Concepcion.

University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos posted the other

men's division victory as it walloped Iloilo Doctors' College, 21-11.

In the day's most exciting match, University of Cebu needed two overtimes to down University of San Jose-Recoletos, 23-21, and join Foundation University, Colegio dela Purisima Concepcion, University of San Agustin, and University of Iloilo in the winner's row.

Gutierrez and Natad were sluggish at the start but found their rhythm after trailing, 2-5.

Natad, a new face in the tournament, replaced veteran Janette Ponte, who watched the game from the sidelines.

"Medyo hilaw pa yung team-up nila (Their team-up is still quite new), but I'm hoping that they will qualify," said Ponte.

The top four teams in both divisions in the Visayas and Mindanao eliminations will join the men's teams of De La Salle University, Far Eastern University, College of St. Benilde, and University of the Philippines and the women's squads of Letran College, Adamson University, University of Baguio, and CSB in the semifinal and championship rounds set on April 16-18 in Boracay.



MICHAEL Simbajon of USJ-R blocks a spike by a University of San Carlos player in one of the featured matches in Visayas eliminations. ALLAN DEFENSOR/CEBU DAILY NEWS

UAAP honors MVPs, top rookies

THE BEST and the brightest in college sports take centerstage on March 22 in the Annual Awards of the 66th University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) to be hosted by Ateneo de Manila University at the Henry Lee Irwin Theater inside its Katipunan campus in Quezon City.

UAAP Season 66 president Jose Capistrano Jr. will lead the presentation of the overall seniors championship trophy to University of Santo Tomas (UST), but the evening will also belong to the Most Valuable Players (MVPs) and top rookies in the 14 sports the UAAP stages annually.

UST ran away with the general championships while De La Salle, which takes its turn to host the league next season, and University of the Philippines tied for second.

Rounding out the order of finish for the season were University of the East at fourth, Far Eastern University at fifth, Ateneo at sixth, Adamson at seventh and National University at eighth.

The MVPs are: athletics, Ralph Waldo Soguilon (DLSU) and Mary Grace Melgar (UE); baseball, Darwin de la Calzada (UP); chess, John Paul Gomez (DLSU) and Christine Grace Espallardo (UP); fencing, Edmond Velez (UE) and Virgie Nuestro (UP); taekwondo, Jeferthom Go (UST) and Josephine Strachan (UST); judo, Artur Emile T. Dela Cerna (UST) and Mary Joan P. Licup (UST); table tennis, Celedonio T. Pisan Jr. (UST) and Jaymee P. Yanga (UST); swimming, Benjamin Uy (DLSU) and Michelle Nisce (UST); lawn tennis, Yannick Guba (DLSU) and Bernardine Aurell Sepulveda (DLSU); volleyball, Janley Patrona (DLSU) and Desiree C. Hernandez (DLSU);

Basketball, James Carlos Yap (UE) and Dorothy CV Torres (Adamson); football, Ariel Zerrudo Jr. (UP) and Marielle Benitez (DLSU); softball, Lovely Parohinog (Adamson); badminton, Lloyd Escoses (FEU) and Irene Chiu (Ateneo).

The Rookies of the Year are: baseball, Francis Fuentes (UST); taekwondo, Gershon Bautista (UST) and Esther Marie Singson (UST); judo, Ryan Anthony Paglinawan (UST) and Kristine Castillo (UST); table tennis, William Ng (UST) and Louise Ann Clemente (FEU); chess, John Paul Gomez (DLSU) and Madeline Abeleda (UST);

Swimming, Jorge Dy (DLSU) and Camille Eser (DLSU); lawn tennis, Erwin de Guzman (DLSU) and Mary Rose Celiste Panis (DLSU); volleyball, Edjet Mabbayad (FEU) and Ma. Rosario Soriano (Ateneo); basketball, Joseph Evans Casio (DLSU) and Cassandra Noel Tioseco (Ateneo);

Football, Patrick Ozaeta (Ateneo) and Ginana Yusi (DLSU); softball, Mary Joy Juanitas (DLSU); badminton, Wilmer Frias (FEU) and Theresa Sebastian (FEU); athletics, Benigno Marayag (UST) and Marecil Maquilan (UE).

PBL Unity Cup begins March 28

THE 2004 PBL Unity Cup will open on March 28, one day late than its original schedule, at the Makati Coliseum, Commissioner Chino Trinidad announced yesterday.

Eight teams will see action in the season-opening tournament with Hapee Toothpaste defending the title it won over Viva Mineral Water-FEU.

Actually, Hapee (formerly Fash Liquid Detergent) is seeking its third straight title and a grand slam of sorts, having also ruled the Platinum Cup at the expense of Welcoat Paints.

The opening ceremony starts at 1 p.m., although the inaugural matches have yet to be finalized.

Though ICTSI-La Salle has taken a leave of absence for one conference and some established stars have just turned pro, Trinidad remains upbeat for the coming conference with the entry of Lee Pipes-Ateneo and Toyota Otis-Letran.

Also competing are Montaña Jewels, Sunkist-UST and Blu Detergent.

"Just like last year, I expect a tough and exciting battle. *Halos balanse naman ang mga teams ngayon* (We have a

balanced field this time)," said Trinidad.

Meantime, Solar Sports will present this Sunday a PBL special dubbed as "Heart Of A Champion" on Channel 29.

The special show, which will be aired from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., highlights the exploits of Fash in winning the Platinum Cup to complete a magical 2003 season for the Lamoian Corporation owned by Cecilio Pedro.

The show will also feature Fash's Peter June Simon, who was adjudged MVP of the Platinum Cup over Welcoat's Jojo Tangkay and James Yap.

Tito Palma, the teams will play one round with the top two clashing for the title.

The national championship will open on May 22 in Baguio and on May 23 in Iloilo City. This event is sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Molten, Nature's Spring Mineral Water and BJ Star Logistics.

All eyes on Pacquiao; HBO, Murad arriving

From page A23

Braga, in a message to the INQUIRER, informed that they want to know the amount of Filipino interest on Pacquiao and determine the depth of his celebrity status in the country.

HBO bigwigs were reportedly flabbergasted to learn of recent news concerning Pacquiao's failure to get in shape.

Muhammad and the HBO crew will then join Pacquiao in the trip to the US on March 19, together with business manager Rod Nazario and his associate Lito Mondejar.

Once in the US, Pacquiao will immediately hook up with Trainer of the Year Freddie Roach at the latter's Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles. Roach, after warning that Marquez is a very dangerous opponent, informed that Pacquiao could beat the fabulous Mexican if the Filipino sensation is in great shape.

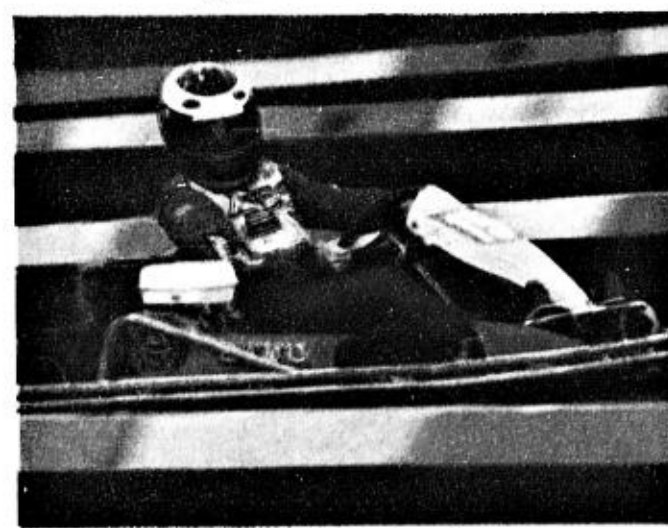
Meanwhile, plans to hold a grudge rematch between Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera hit a snag yesterday after the Mexican injured his hand during sparring, thus forcing him to withdraw from his March 19 tune-up bout against Ivan Alvarez.

4 teams vying in NBC Panasonic Cup

FOUR teams will see action as the National Basketball Conference (NBC) kicks off its preparation for the national championship with the staging of the Panasonic-7 Lakes Invitational Cup tournament sponsored by Sulpicio Lines and hosted by Mayor Florante Aquino on March 25-28 in San Pablo City.

The contenders are Pampanga, represented by Gil Cortez and Msgr. Edgardo Pangan, Cagayan de Oro City of coach Andy Calingin, Manila's Adamson University of coach Luigi Trillo and Spring Cooking Oil-San Pablo of Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Mayor Aquino.

According to NBC secretary general



MICHELLE Bumgarner makes her final practice run. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

DEFENDING champion Michelle Bumgarner of M&M Racing starts her title retention bid against equally talented rivals today when the 2004 Shell Super Karting season reels off at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

After making history as the first lady Karter of the Year last season, Bumgarner seeks another colorful feat in her budding racing career in this eight-leg series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone and Denso Iridium Power.

Out to spoil her bid in the Open class are Team Cebu-CRG's Matteo Guidicelli, Primus Racedevil's Allan Uy, Birel-A3 Motorsports' Inddy Villalon, Marlon Stockinger and Michelle's brother and M&M Racing teammate Mark Bumgarner.

"It was tough going up against these guys last year. Let's just see what our chances are. I'll just do my best," said the defending champi-

on. Over 60 karters have confirmed their participation. Aside from the Open class, the other titles at stake are the KT Light, KT Heavy, Rotax Max Juniors, Rotax Max Expert, Rotax Max Novice and the TRS-PIKA Kids Karting for kids 8-11 years old (formerly Cadet 85 class) which drew 10 entries this year.

The KT Light class will be featuring new faces, including two ladies—Katrina Pinana and Jeje Villoni—who are hoping to follow in Bumgarner's footsteps. They will be joined by John Paul Dizon, Rafael Oracion, Mark Espiritu and Jeovan Sarren among others.

Upcoming talents will race in the Rotax Max Juniors, among them Christian Barrero, Marty Aguilar, Buffy Laurel, Brandon Angel and last year's Cadet 85 champion Paco Rodriguez.

Veterans try to outdo each other in the Rotax Max Seniors division. Favored in this class are Mike Tuason of Tuason Racing-Addict Mo-

bile and M&M Racing skipper Lee Bumgarner, who will be challenged by Tim Gosnel, Marcel Thenu, Othmar Stutz, Tom Stockinger, Ricardo Loi, and new entries Manny Sy, Tyson Sy, Archie Rubio, Oliver Yao and Rey Reyes.

Expected to dispute the Rotax Max Novice crown are Primus Racedevil Maico Angeles, Daniel Cleak, Jason Go, Paul Duillet, Greg Garcia, Carlo Cordano, Peter Cruz, Joseph Arriola and Bilbao Inigo.

Karting fans and enthusiasts can also witness the competition at the Kart Track-Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa Laguna on July 24-25 (4th leg), Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas on August 28-29 (5th leg), the Kart Zone in Cebu City on Sept. 11-12 (6th leg), and at the Boomland, CCP Complex on Oct. 9-10 (7th leg).

The other legs are set April 3-4 (2nd leg), May 15-16 (3rd leg) and the championship round on Nov. 13-14 in Carmona.

Bumgarner favored as Shell Super kart season starts

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie 833-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 825452 1 THE GRUDGE 2 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 MILAN 4 DUPLEX 5 LOVE ACTUALLY 6 GOTHIKA 7 TORQUE 8 HIDALGO	SM STA. MESA 7149522 • 7161416 1 TORQUE 2 GOTHIKA 3 THE GRUDGE 2 4 CARMEN 5 HIDALGO 6 ANNIE B 7 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 8 MILAN 9 LOVE ACTUALLY 10 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO	SM MEGAMALL 6331601 1 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 2 LOVE ACTUALLY 3 GOTHIKA 4 THE GRUDGE 2 5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 6 TORQUE 7 CARMEN 8 DUPLEX 9 MILAN 10 HIDALGO 11 COLD MOUNTAIN 12 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO
SM CITY CEBU 2313876 1 SLEEPING BEAUTY BALLET SHOW 2 COLD MOUNTAIN 3 HAUNTED MANSION 4 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 5 WISHING STAIRS 6 U-BELT 7 LOST IN TRANSLATION 8 GHOSTHOUSE	SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 1 CARMEN 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 THE GRUDGE 2 4 LOVE ACTUALLY 5 ANNIE B 6 MILAN 7 HIDALGO 8 GOTHIKA 9 TORQUE 10 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO	SM CINEMA TUTUBAN 2514702 1 HIDALGO 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO 4 ANNIE B.
SM CITY BACOR 4173668 1 CARMEN 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 HIDALGO 4 ANNIE B 5 GOTHIKA 6 TORQUE 7 LOVE ACTUALLY 8 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO	SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749 1 MILAN 2 ANNIE B 3 BONE SNATCHER 4 HIDALGO 5 GOTHIKA 6 TORQUE 7 THE GRUDGE 2 8 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 9 LOVE ACTUALLY 10 CARMEN 11 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO 12 DUDA/DOUBT	SM CITY MANILA 5239240 1 TORQUE 2 LOVE ACTUALLY 3 COLD MOUNTAIN 4 HIDALGO 5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 6 GOTHIKA 7 LANGIT MO, KALIGAYAHAN KO 8 DUPLEX 9 THE GRUDGE 2 10 CARMEN 11 BONE SNATCHER 12 MILAN
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO (088) 8592884 1 RUNAWAY JURY 2 DUPLEX 3 HAUNTED OFFICE 4 CHASING LIBERTY	SM CITY MARILAO 1 DUPLEX 2 ANNIE B 3 IN THE CUT 4 GOTHIKA	SM CITY DAYAO 2978988 1 COLD MOUNTAIN 2 BONE SNATCHER 3 ANNIE B 4 WISHING STAIRS 5 LOST IN TRANSLATION 6 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT 8294975 1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 LOVE ACTUALLY 3 HIDALGO 4 THE GRUDGE 2	SM CITY PAMPANGA 7128015 1 GOTHIKA 2 WATER DEMON 3 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 4 U-BELT 5 BONE SNATCHER 6 ANNIE B	SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 444595 1 GOTHIKA 2 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 3 ANNIE B 4 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE
SM BICUTAN 7740955 1 HIDALGO 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 LOVE ACTUALLY 4 THE GRUDGE 2	SM CITY ILOILO 3201422 1 21 GRAMS 2 RESERVED 3 ANNIE B 4 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 5 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 6 COLD MOUNTAIN 7 RESERVED 8 WISHING STAIRS	SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-40 1 COLD MOUNTAIN 2 A TALE OF TWO SISTERS 3 WATER DEMON 4 ANNIE B

THE PODIUM CINEMA

1 HIDALGO
11:50 MF/12:20
MF/3:00/5:40/8:20/
10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/1:00 END

2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
11:40 FS/12:10
MF/2:20/4:30/6:40/8:50/
10:30 LFS/11:00
LMF/12:40 END

For Seat Reservation, call 633 8976
LATE NIGHT SCREENING
DURING FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

now showing

See the first full-length digital movie to be released commercially in local theaters!

Showing only at
SM Fairview Cinema 12

DUDA/doubt

for screening schedules:
833 9999

AYALA CINEMAS PRESENTS

G1 GLORETITA 1	G4 GLORETITA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 HIDALGO	1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 LOVE ACTUALLY 3 HIDALGO	1 THE GRUDGE 2 2 HIDALGO	1 HIDALGO 2 LOVE ACTUALLY 3 SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 4 GOTHIKA 5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN	1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 HIDALGO 3 LOVE ACTUALLY 4 THE GRUDGE 2 5 GOTHIKA

For screening times, call 729-7777. Movies are subject to change without prior notice. Reserve your seats by texting **SURESEATS GB3** or **SURESEATS G4** and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.

MMTA METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA (Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72 1 GRUDGE-2 2 SEABISCUIT 3 TORQUE 4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 5 HIDALGO 6 GOTHIKA 7 LOVE ACTUALLY 8 DUPLEX 9 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE 10 MILAN	GOTESCO CINEMA Gotesco City (Manila) tel 734.8588 RESERVE Gotesco Grand Central (Calocan) tel 364.3781 1 SPIRAL 2 CHEAPERS BY THE DOZEN 3 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 4 DRAGON VS. NINJA 5 HIDALGO 6 TORQUE 7 GOTHIKA 8 ANNIE B Gotesco Commonwealth tel 951.0083 RESERVE 1 ANNIE B 2 GOTHIKA 3 TORQUE 4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 5	Cinema 2000 Target Mall (Sta. Rosa, Laguna) tel (049) 837.0926 1 TORQUE 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 ANNIE B Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383 1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 SPIRAL 3 TORQUE 4 ANNIE B Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146 1 ANNIE B 2 GOTHIKA 3 TORQUE 4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771 1 HAUNTED MANSION 2 ANNIE B 3 JEEPER CREEPERS Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729 1 ANNIE B 2 DUPLEX 3 COLD MOUNTAIN 4 RUN AWAY JURY Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Pilar) tel (044) 795.3120 1 COLD MOUNTAIN 2 DUPLEX 3 ANNIE B
EASTWOOD CINEMA'S (Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 887.6963 or 72 1 HIDALGO 2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 3 LOVE ACTUALLY 4 GOTHIKA	Universal (Manila) tel 733.2470 RESERVE 1 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 2 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 3 GRUDGE-2 4	Lianas Cinema (Alabang) tel 850.1276 1 DRAGON VS. NINJA 2 MATAMIS HANGGANG DULO 3 BIGLANG LIKO 4 WISPER Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (044) 545.7202 1 DRAGON VS. NINJA 2 U BELT 3 TORQUE 4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 5 SPIRAL
Marasana CINEMA (Pasay) tel 833.3290, 833.3274 1 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 2 DRAGON VS. NINJA 3 GRUDGE-1	Dilson (Manila) tel 734.7724 1 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 2 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 3 GRUDGE-2 4	Olivarez Tri-Cinema (Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883 1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN Olivarez Los Baños tel (049) 249.2558 1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 TORQUE 3 GRUDGE-1
starmall www.clickthecity.com.ph (Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986 1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 4 TORQUE 5 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO	Isotann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238 1 TORQUE 2 CHEAPERS BY THE DOZEN 3 LOVE ACTUALLY 4 HIDALGO 5 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO	Mega Center Mall (Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283 1 TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 2 KUYA 3 RUN AWAY JURY 4 COLD MOUNTAIN Cabuyao (Laguna City) tel 520.8914 RESERVE
METROPOLIS www.clickthecity.com.ph (Alabang) tel 850.4285 1 CARMEN 2 LANGIT KO KALIGAYAHAN KO 3 GOTHIKA 4 TORQUE 5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 7 WISHING STAIRS 8 WATER DEMON EMPERORS CLUB	THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT Araneta tel 911-3781 Loc. 821-8248-8446 1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 3 HIDALGO 4 GOTHIKA 5 TORQUE 6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 7 LOVE ACTUALLY Jade Cinema (Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03 1 WATER DEMON 2 GHOST HOUSE 3 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE 4 U BELT Cine Nepo (Angeles City) tel (045) 867.0121 1 SOMETHING GOTTA GIVE 2 ANNIE B 3 GOTHIKA 4 MAGIC KITCHEN Cine Nepo (Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489 1 ANNIE B 2 RUN AWAY JURY 3 GHOST HOUSE 4 SHIRI	Fiesta World Mall (Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790 1 WATER DEMON 2 GOTHIKA 3 TORQUE 4 ANNIE B Emperor (Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657 1 BUGBUG SARADO 2 DRAGON VS. NINJA

ADVANCED SCREENING **TEX** **PODOLBY** **ITS** **SDDS**

Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

Jack Diane
Something's Gotta Give

NOW SHOWING

A26 Chess clinics slated

AN EARLY summer offering of Milo Checkmate clinic will be held in two pre-schools, Happy Nest Center in Pasig City and World Prep Learning Center (WPLC) in Loyola Heights, Quezon City, from March 22-27.

Classes at Happy Nest Center at the 2/F Bramante Plaza Bldg. in Renaissance Center near Ultra will be held from Monday-Saturday at 8-11:30 a.m. At WPLC, situated at 149 B. Gonzales St. near Miriam College, the clinic will be held 1:30-5 p.m.

Early classes will also be held at the clinic's regular venues such as Jollibee-Greenhills Shopping Center (1:30-5 p.m.); Rizal Memorial Sports Complex Badminton Building., Vito Cruz, Manila (8 a.m.-12 noon) and 4/F of J & F Divino Building at Aurora Boulevard (9 a.m.-1 p.m.).

For details, call the Metropolitan Chess Club at 826-8560 and 0916-8521069.

Meanwhile, the P30,000 Young Knights Invitation cup has been moved to April 3-4.

Derby today

THE MANDALUYONG Coliseum, now under the management of partners Kags Paliza, Jonjon Abalos and Aba Badiola, presents the "Maliitan Lang 2-Cock Ulutan" today with more than 150 participants invited.

At stake are the following prizes: first champion, P10,000; second, P8,000; third, P7,000; fourth, P6,000 and fifth champion, P6,000. Each of them will also get a sack of rice.

On April is the super 3-cock derby with a guaranteed prize of P300,000 and pot money of P5,500 hosted by Mandaluyong Coliseum management.

Interested parties may contact Mandaluyong Coliseum at 532-2650 and 534-4110.

Araneta 7-cocker

LOUIE Cua of Manila and the NYS Group will host the "National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-Cock Derby" at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum on March 16 and 18.

Submission of weights is on Monday, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Araneta green gate. For inquiries, contact 911-3101 and 911-2928 (look for Gloria Avena).

Araneta Coliseum's new schedule of derbies is now every Tuesday and Thursday. Also slated is the NCA 7-Cock Derby on March 23 and 25 with Gov. Ito Ynares and Gerry Ramos as hosts.

Ucap president Raymond Velayo's entry, Amis Master, ruled the NCA 7-Cock Derby last March 1 and 3 with 6.5 points.

Boxers seek Athens slots

IF the Philippine boxing team succeeds in forming a six-man Olympic squad, it would be sending its biggest contingent to the Athens Games in August.

The Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) sends four boxers to China next week, hoping to beef up the RP Olympic boxing team which managed to qualify three fighters during the Asian Boxing Championships in Palawan in January.

Lightflyweight Harry Tañamor, bantamweight Ferdie Gamo, featherweight Roel Laguna and welterweight Genebert Basadre will try their luck in the second Olympic qualifying tournament slated March 18-26 in Guangzhou, China.

"Our target is to get at least six slots in Athens. Getting more slots will definitely be a big boost to our chance of winning our first Olympic gold," said national head coach Gregorio Calivan, who, together with assistant coach Nolito Velasco and boxing association sec gen Rogelio Fortaleza, accompanied the four boxers in yesterday's SCOOP forum.

The Philippines earlier earned three boxing slots to the Athens Olympics through Christopher Camat, Violito Payla and Romeo Brin during the first Olympic qualifying tournament held in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
For inquiries, call:
687-6963 • 687-6972
RESERVED SEATING
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	HIDALGO 11:40, 2:30, 5:20 8:10, 11:00 PG-13
2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 11:00, 1:10, 3:20 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 GP
3	LOVE ACTUALLY 11:40, 2:30, 5:20 8:10, 11:00 R-18
4	GOTHIKA 11:15, 1:30, 3:50 6:10, 8:30, 10:50 R-13

THEATRE-MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
NOW SHOWING

1	HIDALGO 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 P13	2	LOVE ACTUALLY 11:05, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 10:00 R18
---	---	---	---

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
MAR 19, 20, 26, 27
MAR 17 & 18
"MENOPAUSE THE MUSICAL" 8:00PM
"WILLIE NELSON 4 PRESIDENT" 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-6726 OR 721-0635

OPENS MARCH 24!

SCOOBY-DOO 2
MONSTERS UNLEASHED

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB R-18
A film that will make you laugh.
A film that will make you cry.
A film that will remind you that "LOVE IS ALL AROUND."

Somewhere in this movie, you'll find the love of your life.

loveactually
THE ULTIMATE ROMANTIC COMEDY
Very romantic. Very comedy.

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD
CALL-A-MOVIE FOR ALL BRANCHES 635-5555
Visit us: www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

TOP MOVIE THEATER
Annual National Consumer's Quality Award 2003
Family Consumers Choice Award 2003
NOW SHOWING

GALLERIA 632-9115 to 16 / 687-0593
CINEMA 1 THX
GOTHIKA
12:25, 2:40, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40

2	THE GRUDGE 2 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 PG-13	3	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45 PG	4	CARMEN 10:40, 1:10, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00 PG
5	HIDALGO 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	6	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	7	COLD MOUNTAIN 12:10, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 PG
8	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50 PG	9	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 12:40, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00 PG	10	TORQUE 10:50, 1:00, 3:10, 5:20, 7:30, 9:45 PG

MATINEE: Monday to Friday/ 10 am-4pm except holidays
Matinee Price: P100 THX cinema / P80 for one level cinemas
Regular Price: P130 THX / P95/65 for two levels cinemas / P95 for one level cinemas

ERMITA 526-7185 / 536-7809 to 12
DOLBY DIGITAL EX

1	HIDALGO 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:45, 9:40 PG	2	GOTHIKA 11:35, 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:10, 10:00 PG	3	CARMEN 11:30, 1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:00 PG
4	THE GRUDGE 2 11:10, 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:00 PG	5	LOVE ACTUALLY 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00 PG	6	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

Big R Supercenter METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	LOVE ACTUALLY 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00 PG	2	GOTHIKA 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG		
3	TORQUE 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	4	HIDALGO 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 PG	5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG
6	THE GRUDGE 2 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	7	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	8	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG

Big R Supercenter NOVALICHES / FAIRVIEW 935-3229 / 31

1	THE GRUDGE 2 11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35 PG	2	GOTHIKA 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG		
3	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	4	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG	5	HIDALGO 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG
6	TORQUE 11:25, 1:15, 3:05, 4:55, 6:45, 8:35 PG	7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	8	CARMEN 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG

Citistore MALABON 288-0985/2575

1	HIDALGO 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 PG	2	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	3	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG	4	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG
5	THE GRUDGE 2 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	6	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

Big R Supercenter CAINTA 240-4661

1	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	2	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG	3	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	4	HIDALGO 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 PG
5	THE GRUDGE 2 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	6	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA 049/837-0907

1	TORQUE 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	2	GOTHIKA 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG	3	DUPLEX 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	4	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG	5	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG
6	THE GRUDGE 2 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	7	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	8	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	9	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

Big R Supercenter LIPA 757-3664 / 312-5870

1	TORQUE 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	2	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG	3	DRAGON VS. NINJA 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	4	GHOST HOUSE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	5	DUPLEX 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG
6	THE GRUDGE 2 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	7	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	8	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	9	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

Big R Supercenter DASMARINAS 852-2125

1	DRAGON VS. NINJA 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	2	WATER DEMON 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	3	TORQUE 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	4	DUPLEX 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	5	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG
6	THE GRUDGE 2 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 9:00 PG	7	CARMEN 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 PG	8	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	9	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

Big R Supercenter STA. ROSA 875-1927 / 061-5270

1	BONE SNATCHER 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	2	U-BELT 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	3	WATER DEMON 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	4	GHOST HOUSE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	5	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG
6	GOTHIKA 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG	7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	9	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858

1	TORQUE 10:40, 12:05, 2:50, 5:35, 8:30 PG	2	HIDALGO 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00 PG	3	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	4	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	5	GOTHIKA 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG	6	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG
7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	9	GOTHIKA 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG	10	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG	11	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	12	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

BACOLOD 441-0458/59

1	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	2	COLD MOUNTAIN 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	3	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG	4	MAGIC KITCHEN 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	5	WISHING STAIRS 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	6	U-BELT 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG
7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	9	GOTHIKA 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG	10	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG	11	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	12	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

ILOILO 336-8070/78

1	TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	2	COLD MOUNTAIN 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	3	ANNIE B. 12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:30 PG	4	SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	5	WISHING STAIRS 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG	6	GHOST HOUSE 11:45, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:30 PG
7	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	8	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG	9	GOTHIKA 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:00 PG	10	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO 11:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00 PG	11	LOVE ACTUALLY 10:20, 1:10, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40 PG	12	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:35, 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:40 PG

See it at its BEST

at ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD

ADVANCE SCREENING
50 1st DATES
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA Cinema 2
March 15, 2004 (Monday) 7:30 PM
This screening is STRICTLY INVITATIONAL
MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI 1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
ALI 2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
ALI 3	HIDALGO
ALI 4	GOTHIKA
ALI 5	TORQUE
ALI 6	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
ALI 7	LOVE ACTUALLY

NEW FIESTA CARNIVAL
NOW OPEN 4 PM to 10 PM daily

ARANETA COLISEUM

MAR 13	PBA: PUREFOODS VS. STA. LUCIA
MAR 14	PBA: GINEBRA VS. COKE
MAR 16	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 17	PBA: STA. LUCIA VS. TALK 'N' TEXT
MAR 18	NCA 7-COCK DERBY
MAR 21	PBA: SAN MIGUEL VS. PUREFOODS
MAR 23	NCA 7-COCK DERBY

FOR TICKETS, CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE
MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONETA	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
CORONETA B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-2079 / 633-7851 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	MILAN
CINEMA-2	LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
CINEMA-3	DRAGON VS. NINJA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CARMEN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KUYA
CINEMA-6	U-BELT
CINEMA-7	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-8	ANNIE B.
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	TORQUE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HIDALGO
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
CINEMA-12	LOVE ACTUALLY
CINEMA-14	GOTHIKA
CINEMA-15	GRUDGE 2

LORES

CINEMA-2	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	hulihit sa
CINEMA-1	ANNIE B.
CINEMA-2	COLD MOUNTAIN
CINEMA-4	"I SA" NG "I SA" NG "I SA"

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

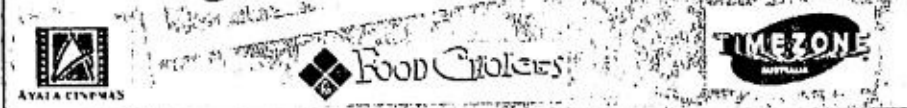
(PARANAGUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Every Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 movie ticket that you buy instantly gives you more!

YOU GET:

2 FREE TIMEZONE GAMES
for a minimum P20 load
(yellow swipers only)

A FREE GIFT FROM FOOD CHOICES
for a single minimum purchase of P120



AYALA MALLS Love all!

Price-offs, rewards, freebies, and perks from hundreds of shops in Ayala Malls. Now available at the Discount Plus booths.

For inquiries, please call the Discount Plus booths at 752-7324/25 (Glorietta), 840-3399 (Greenbelt), 642-2782 (Alabang Town Center) or (032)232-0380 (Ayala Center Cebu).

THIS TIME THERE IS NO ESCAPE **NOW SHOWING at Robinsons Movieworld**

THE GRUDGE 2

screening time:

GALLERIA
Cinema 2 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

ERMITA
C-2 11:10, 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:00

METRO EAST
C-6 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 6:50, 8:00

Rating: R-13

For screening time, please call our **MOVIE ACCESS** 635-5555 or visit www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

NOW SHOWING EXCLUSIVELY AT AYALA CENTER CEBU CINEMAS

"A Romantic Winner!"
--- 12 Online

"Two Thumbs Up!"
--- Ebert & Roeper

DIANE LANE

UNDER THE TUSCAN SUN

Life offers you a thousand chances... all you have to do is take one.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

FALL IN LOVE OVER & OVER AGAIN MARCH 17!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

ADAMS SANDLER **DREW BARRYMORE**

50 FIRST DATES

When your girlfriend has amnesia you have to win her over...every single day.

50FirstDates.com **MAKE IT A DATE!**

Distributed by **COLUMBIA PICTURES**

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

FROM THE PRODUCER OF THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS, S.W.A.T. AND XXX

TORQUE

VALUATION PICTURES

MTRCB PG-13 ALL AGES ADMITTED

A SUPER-SIZED COMEDY!

STEVE MARTIN **CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN**

NOW SHOWING

SPORTS

TERRORISM THREAT

Spain football games on despite bombings

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41

SOMETHING'S GOTTA GIVE R13 12:55, 3:40, 6:25, 9:10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN GP 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN GP 11:10, 1:45, 4:00, 6:15, 8:30
LOVE ACTUALLY R18 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30	GOHIKA R13 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	HIDALGO PG13 12:15, 2:50, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

OPENS MARCH 17!

In the tradition of last year's most horrifying films...
"JU-ON The Grudge" and "JEEPERS CREEPERS 2"
Comes this most spine chilling and darkest horror masterpiece

Sorun

THE BIRTH OF EVIL

KIM MYEONG-MIN GI JU-BONG JANG JIN-YEONG(a)

DIRECTED BY: YUN JONG-CHAN

WARNING: Chills that lingers kills! If you have a weak heart Please don't watch this film

MADRID—The minds of most Spaniards are far from the championship race in the wake of Thursday's horrific bombings in Madrid, and a game of football seems trivial compared to the lives that were lost, but the Spanish federation confirmed here that this weekend's games will go ahead.

"If we were to cancel the games, we would have given in to the terrorists," said a Spanish federation spokesperson, who added that a minute's silence will be observed before each game.

However, before Thursday's events, all the talk was of whether Barcelona could continue their winning run at relegation-threatened Murcia on Sunday.

Barca has notched a winning run of seven games and in its current form should have little trouble making it eight straight but coach Frank Rijkaard will let the dust settle from Thursday's UEFA Cup tie at Celtic before naming his side.

One man though who can be assured of his place, fitness permitting, is Ronaldinho.

The ever-smiling Brazilian World Cup winner has found his form since the start of the year and inspired the Catalan surge which has seen them move from mid-table mediocrity up to fourth.

"I think I am playing some of the best football of my life at the moment. I took a little while to settle in after my move from Paris St. Germain, that's natural, but now I have built up a really good understanding with my teammates," reflected Ronaldinho earlier this week.

The influential football magazine Don Balon certainly thinks so, voting him the best player in Spain during the last month. **AFP**

Vita risks title

ONE more win and defending champion Johnson Vita will be installed into the hall of fame of the "Search for the Tanduay No. 1 Billiards Player" at the Robinson's Galleria.

That, however, would not come easy for the 51-year-old native of Nagcarlan, Laguna, as he will be facing veteran campaigners Benedict Baay and Florencio Banar today in his bid to keep the title for the eighth week in this event sponsored by Tanduay the No. 1 Rhum, Robinson's Malls, Accel, Hope the Luxury Cigarettes and Rommel's Billiards.

The match will be aired over the National Broadcasting Network tonight on primetime, 8-9 p.m.

With a win, Vita could join Antonio "Gaga" Gabica in Tanduay's elite circle of billiards winners who may see action in the "Battle of Champions" at the end of the year.

OPENS MARCH 17 EXCLUSIVELY AT GLORIETTA 4 CINEMAS

Tommy Lee Jones Cate Blanchett

THE MISSING

How far would you go, how much would you sacrifice to get back what you have lost?

From Ron Howard and Brian Grazer, the Oscar-winning director-producer team of A BEAUTIFUL MIND comes THE MISSING, an action-filled suspense thriller and a powerful drama of love, forgiveness and redemption.

"Powerful and provocative, The Missing is another masterful production from one of the industry's best directors and two of its best actors."
--- Paul Clinton, CNN

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

Where you find the best.

JOE MARKS

WHAT US AT www.joemarks.com

Nat'l tryouts' Bicol swing starts in Naga

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier Tryouts ng Bayan starts its final regional wing next week in Naga and Legaspi in Southern Luzon with national coach Dong Vergeire hoping that it will be as productive as the recent Northern Luzon leg in Baguio and Pampanga.

In Baguio, the discoveries were 6-foot-6 Jayson Tiongson of University of Baguio, 6-5 Ephraim Torio of University of Luzon, 6-4 Jethron Mendoza, 6-4 Renato Carino Jr., and 6-4 Christian Robals, all from UB; and Fil-Nigerian Sammy Ayodele Jr. Standout in the Guagua session was 17-year-old 6-foot-6 Jeff Montemayor, who may see action with PCU next school year.

Vergeire is also planning to duplicate the coaching seminar he and Boysie Zamar conducted for Baguio's local coaches.

"The seminar for coaches showed that everyone who loves basketball can get together and learn from one another. There were no politics involved and that is how basketball development here in the country should be done," said Vergeire.

Lim's camp

IF YOU want your kid to be the next Samboy Lim, let him train under the "Skywalker."

Lim's Skywalker's Basketball Camp starts on April 12 at the Sports Kamp at the Fort in Global City, with Lim personally handling the eight-session camp.

Kids will learn the skills that made him one of the 25 greatest players of the Philippine Basketball Association.

The seven-hour sessions will be held on April 12, 13, 16, 17 and 18, 25 and May 2 starting at 3 p.m. They cover the fundamentals of the game, including discipline, mental approach and values for which Samboy had been known for. Part of the proceeds will be donated to street children organizations in Taguig and Metro Manila.

Doves prevail

HAROLD Pavia and Melvin Hernandez kept their composure in the heat of Polytechnic University's fiery rally in the homestretch to pull off a 26-24 victory for St. Francis of Assisi College for the men's championship of the NCR Athletic Association beach volleyball tournament at the Island Cove resort in Kawit, Cavite. Their victory over the pair of Ivan Christian Bacolod and Marvin Ofrecio gave the SPAC Doves a league-best 7-1 record. SPAC and PUP reached the semifinals by virtue of a better tiebreak record over Rizal Technological University in Group A.



TRIATHLON OFFICIAL HOTEL

Legenda Hotel's (Subic) Jovie Reyes de Guzman (left) shakes hand with Triathlon Association of the Philippines president Tom Carrasco after inking the pact designating Legenda as the official hotel of the Speedo Asian Triathlon Championship 2004 set at Subic Bay Freeport April 3-4. With them are Michael Te and Dong Sarmiento.

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

OPENS MARCH 17

#1 MOVIE IN AMERICA

If you have the power to resurrect your loved one... would you do it?

A TERRIFYING JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN.

ASHTON KUTCHER **AMY SMART**

The Butterfly Effect

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF **FINAL DESTINATION 2**

MAGNET RELEASE

THE BIGGEST COMEDY EVENT OF THE YEAR!

BAYANI AGBAYANI and **VHONG NAVARRO**

MAKISAYAW, MAKIGALAW AT MAKIGILING SA PELIKULANG DOBLE

ANG SAYA AT KATATAWANANI!

84TS8

PAMELA-MELA WAN

A film by **JERRY LOPEZ SINENENG, dgpi**

STAR CINEMA PRODUCTIONS INC. (Gualfonesin) Robitussin

OPENS ON MARCH 17, 2004

MTRCB R-13 Strictly for 13 years of age and up

Ghost story is "scary as hell"

Vengeful ghost in 'GOTHIKA'

"Because she is dead doesn't mean she's gone..."

Academy Award®-winner Halle Berry stars in Columbia Pictures' spine-chilling horror thriller as Dr. Miranda Grey, a criminal psychologist who awakens to find herself a patient in her own mental institution with no memory of the murder she's apparently committed. Haunted by a vengeful female ghost, Miranda must find out if she is being led farther from her sanity or closer to the truth. **GOTHIKA** also stars Robert Downey Jr. and Penelope Cruz.

Bring the barkada & scream all you can! NOW SHOWING

MTRCB R-18 Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. old may be admitted

OPENS MARCH 17

THE LAST HORROR MOVIE YOU WILL EVER SEE!

THERE IS A MOVIE. IF YOU VIEW IT. YOU DIE.

THE CURSE

More terrifying than "THE RING."

JESSICA NAPIER SIMON BOSELL MOLLY RINGWALD and KYLIE MINOGUE

4TH THRILLING ACTION ADVENTURE DAY

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

VIGGO MORTENSEN

HIDALGO

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS / CASEY SILVER PRODUCTION / A JOE JOHNSON FILM / VIGGO MORTENSEN / HIDALGO / CHARLIE HOPKINS / JAMES VAN DER BEEK / JACQUELINE BUELL / JEFFREY KULAND / ROBERT DALLA / JEFFREY KULAND / ROBERT DALLA / JEFFREY KULAND / ROBERT DALLA

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

Compiled by L. Mangulat

SPORTS

KINGS WIN

Rockets down Hornets

NEW YORK—Cuttino Mobley poured in 31 points to carry the Houston Rockets to a 97-86 win over the New Orleans Hornets in the first of only two NBA games on Thursday.

It was Houston's fourth straight victory. Mobley was deadly from beyond the arc, hitting six of his nine three-point tries, matching a season high for him.

The Rhode Island-schooled guard, a second-round choice in 1998, reeled off 13 straight points to spark a 17-4 Houston run

very early in the second stanza to all but put the game away for the Rockets.

Steve Francis, who has been in coach Jeff Van Gundy's doghouse at times this campaign, added 19 points, with Yao Ming getting 17 and a team-high nine rebounds.

Baron Davis paced the Hornets with 30 points, the majority of them in the waning minutes as New Orleans made a late charge.

Darrell Armstrong was next best for New Orleans with just 11 points, with All-Star Jamaal Magloire adding 10 to go with his 11 rebounds.

Four Kings topped the 20-point barrier as Sacramento thumped the Dallas Mavericks,

120-102.

Peja Stojakovic and Doug Christie led the Kings with 22 points apiece, with both Mike Bibby and Brad Miller racking up 21. Miller also pulled down 16 rebounds.

Recently returned co-captain Chris Webber added 16 points.

The Mavericks were paced by Dirk Nowitzki, who scored 21 points.

Dallas playmaker Steve Nash, who before the contest cited Sacramento's depth, added 13 points while dishing out seven assists.

Dallas, the NBA's best home team, fell to just 11-20 on the road. **Reuters**

Love gifts local church with \$700,000

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Florida — Davis Love III found a way to erase contentious memories from the Match Play Championship, donating his \$700,000 from finishing second to his local church.

"It hits you that there are more important things than golf," Love said on Thursday.

Love lost to Tiger Woods in the final match at La Costa two weeks ago, a Sunday that turned sour when he was heckled by a fan during a pivotal stretch of the 36-hole match.

The fan kept saying "No Love" as he prepared to play, and Love finally confronted him on the fifth tee.

Love refused to resume the match until the culprit was identified and taken out of the gallery.

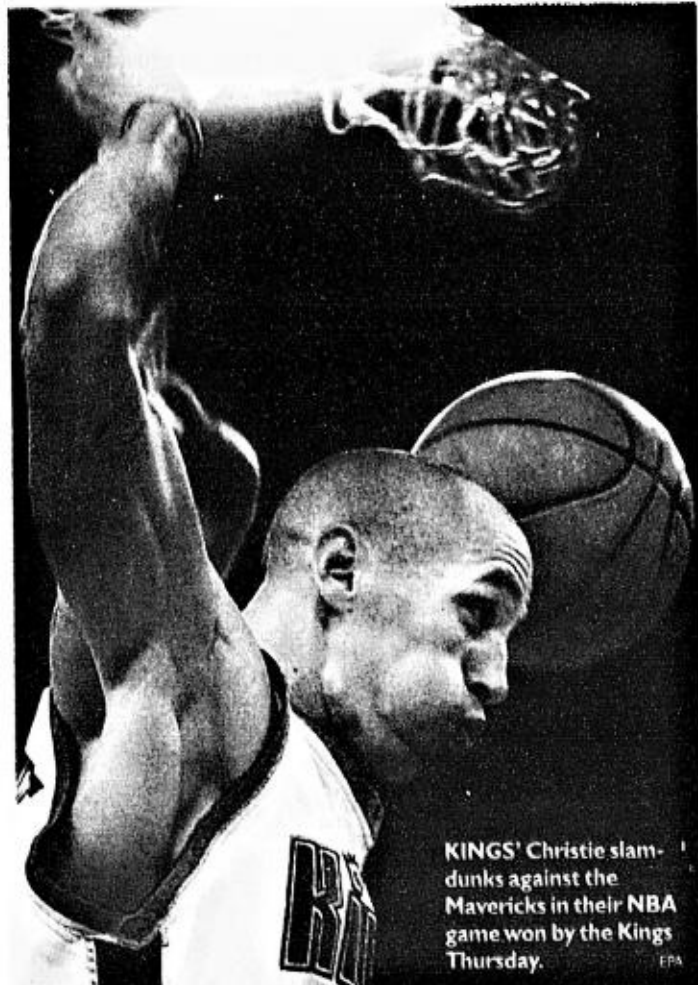
Love was heavily criticized in newspaper

columns and talk radio the following week for the way he handled the heckling, and wound up trying to defend the etiquette in golf.

"It was a good week, and that took all the fun out of it," Love said. "I went to David Duval's wedding, and the pastor said some things that made me think. Then our pastor said some things on Sunday ... and it just seemed like the right thing to do."

Love gave the money to St. Simons Presbyterian Church on St. Simons Island, Georgia. The church is starting a five-year construction project to refurbish the sanctuary, classrooms and assembly hall.

He and his wife, Robin, had already made a pledge to the building fund when Love decided to add his \$700,000 check. **AP**



KINGS' Christie slam-dunks against the Mavericks in their NBA game won by the Kings Thursday.

Jackson, Lakers fined

NEW YORK—Phil Jackson and the Los Angeles Lakers' organization were each fined \$50,000 by the NBA on Thursday for comments the coach made about officiating following a loss to the

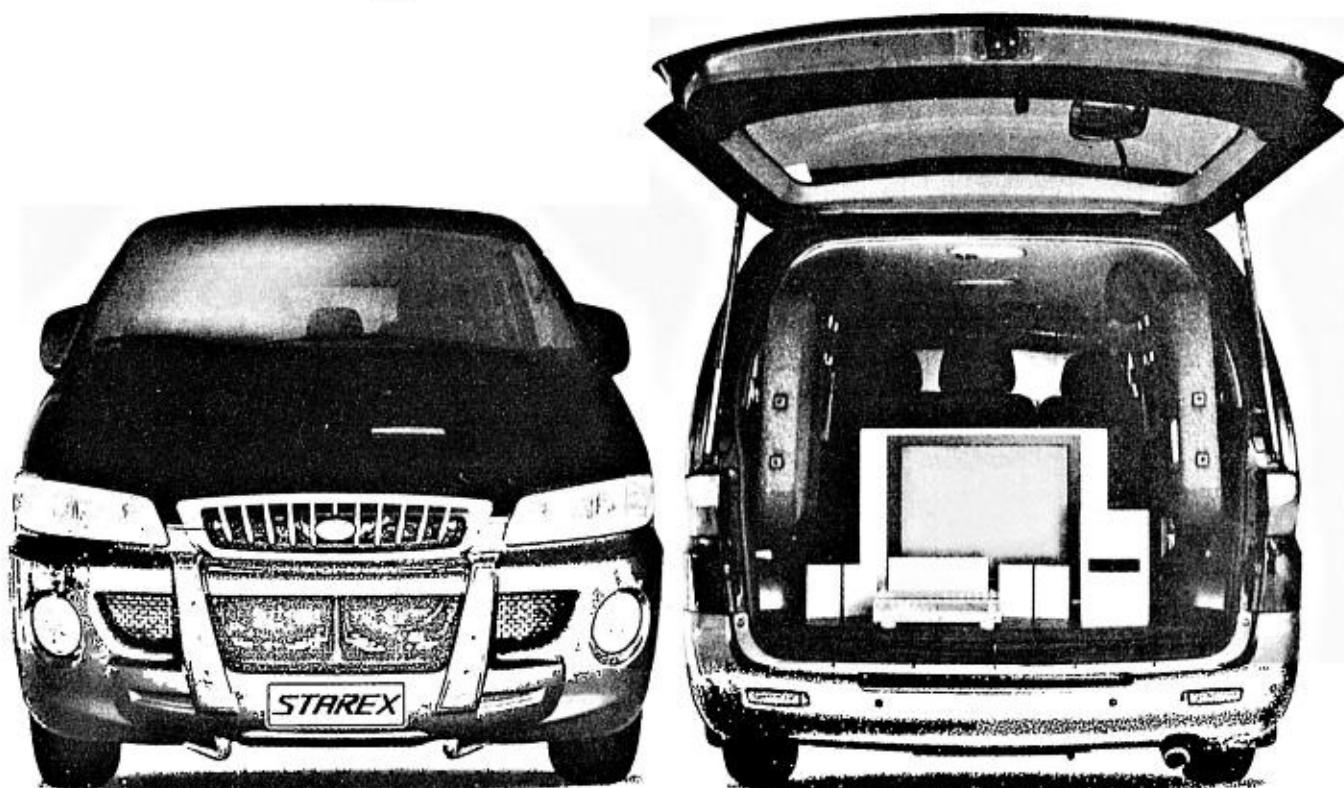
Utah Jazz.

Jackson accused referee Bob Delaney of being prejudiced against Shaquille O'Neal following the 88-83 loss on Monday. **AP**



JUNG Yoon Lee leads the season's first LPGA event. See story on A24.

STAREX DOUBLE-DEAL THRILL



Get into a double-deal thrill with the Starex, the all-time favorite family van in the country, by availing of any Starex SVX models (AT/MT) through these exciting package deals.

PROMO STARTS ON FEB. 9 TO MARCH 14, 2004



Zero Percent Interest, Low Down Payment & Low Monthly Amortization.*

- ✓ 0% Interest for 12 months at 50% down payment.
- ✓ Low down payment of P 179,000 for Starex SVX MT and P 193,800 for Starex SVX AT.
- ✓ Low monthly amortization of P 11,733 for 60 months at 50% down payment for Starex SVX MT and P 12,830 for Starex SVX AT.



FREE Hyundai Electronics Home Entertainment Package when you purchase in cash or through standard financing.

PARTICIPATING BANKS: BPI FAMILY BANK, CHINABANK, EQUITABLE PCI BANK, I-BANK, MAYBANK, METROBANK, PHIL. SAVINGS BANK, PHILAM SAVINGS BANK, UCPB, UCPB SAVINGS, UNION BANK

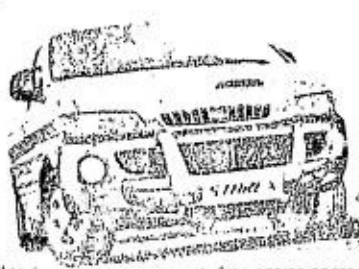
*Based on SRP: Starex SVX MT - P995,000.00 Starex SVX AT - P1,088,000.00 ALL COSTS ARE EXCLUSIVE OF FREIGHT AND HANDLING CHARGES.

All packages are inclusive of

FREE In-Dash DVD/VCD/MP3 system with 20.32 cms. (8 in.) LCD Monitor!



STAREX



For more information, visit your nearest HARI Dealer:

HYUNDAI E. Rodriguez St. Ave. - 222 E. Rodriguez St. Avenue G.C. Tel. (02) 727-8394 (02) 413-1848 (02) 251-0018 (02) 253-1008 • HYUNDAI Edna - 451 EDSA Guadalupe Makati City Tel. (02) 882-2433 / (02) 882-2432 • HYUNDAI Makati - 2307 Don Chino Rocas Ex. Makati City Tel. (02) 830-0013 to 17 • Telcel (02) 830-0023 • HYUNDAI Ortigas - 500 EDSA, Greenhills San Juan Tel. (02) 723-0101 to 07 • HYUNDAI Quezon Avenue - 1144 Quezon Avenue Quezon City Tel. (02) 374-3011 / (02) 411-2720 • HYUNDAI Alibang - Alibang Zapote Road Alibang Line Las Pinas City Tel. (02) 850-1771 (02) 850-1772 / (02) 850-1773 / (02) 850-1774 / (02) 850-1775 / (02) 850-1776 / (02) 850-1777 / (02) 850-1778 / (02) 850-1779 / (02) 850-1780 / (02) 850-1781 / (02) 850-1782 / (02) 850-1783 / (02) 850-1784 / (02) 850-1785 / (02) 850-1786 / (02) 850-1787 / (02) 850-1788 / (02) 850-1789 / (02) 850-1790 / (02) 850-1791 / (02) 850-1792 / (02) 850-1793 / (02) 850-1794 / (02) 850-1795 / (02) 850-1796 / (02) 850-1797 / (02) 850-1798 / (02) 850-1799 / (02) 850-1800 • HYUNDAI Bacolod - Arameta St. Bacolod City Negros Occidental Tel. (034) 433-3510 (034) 435-0268 • HYUNDAI Cagayan De Oro - Gusa Highway Cagayan De Oro City Tel. (088) 855-4006 to 07 • HYUNDAI Cebu - A.S. Fortune St. Bantad Mandau City Cebu Tel. (032) 348-2724 (032) 345-4145 / (032) 345-0324 to 28 • HYUNDAI Davao - Km. 8 Barro Panipanga Sasa Davao City Tel. (082) 235-7955 / Telcel (082) 305-0000 • HYUNDAI Iloilo - Luna St. La Paz Iloilo City Tel. (033) 320-7020 (033) 508-0876 / Telcel (033) 320-4100 • HYUNDAI La Union Inc. - Amman Bldg. Complex Km. 218 National Hwy Rosario La Union Tel. (072) 712-8887 to 88 • HYUNDAI Pampanga - San Fernando Urogapao Gapan Rd San Fernando, Pampanga Tel. (045) 901-1184 (045) 901-3977 (045) 901-8888 (045) 888-3333



BADMINTON WINNER

Roslin Hashim of Malaysia celebrates after posting a thrilling victory over Kenneth Jonassen of Denmark on Thursday. Hashim advanced to the quarterfinal stage of the All England Badminton Championships in Birmingham, England. Hashim won, 2-1, (7-15; 17-14; 15-14) **AFP**



PANGAD MU BANG YUMAMAN?
MAG-DEALER NG
Emperor
 PIZZA, SIOPAO, SIOMAI, CAKES, BREADS, PASTRIES, ATRIP
NO FRANCHISE ROYALTY FEE
ADVERTISING
 CALL 830-0774 OR 840-0499
 Cell. Nos.: 0916-6202373 (JOYCE)
 e-mail: joyce@emperor.net.ph / emperormakat@yahoo.com

SATURDAY,
MARCH 13, 2004

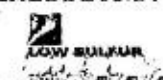
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

B1

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
 Website: www.inq7money.net

Editor Raul O. Marcelo
 Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

BUSINESS

Grime does not pay.
FOR CLEAN EMISSIONS.


25 vying for 15-member PSE board

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

TWO brokers have pulled out from the race for a seat in the 15-member board of the Philippine Stock Exchange, leaving 25 others running in today's election, the PSE said yesterday.

At the same time, the PSE board, citing "the greater good of the exchange," yesterday rejected the request of some brokers not to allow new investors to vote their 40-percent block during today's elections.

The PSE did not elaborate in deference to the sub judice rule after it was served a notice about the complaint filed by brokers against the incumbent PSE board and new investors with the Pasig regional trial court yesterday.

Emerging from the board meeting, board director and Accra lawyer Francis Lim said that from a personal legal stand point, there was no stopping the new investors from attending and voting during

today's stockholders' meeting. "Unless there is a temporary restraining order by today, they should not be prohibited," Lim said.

PSE Nominations and Elections Committee chair Rodolfo Cruz said in a disclosure that First Orient Securities nominee Trina Kalaw and Triton Securities nominee Edwin Luy have withdrawn their candidacies.

In a letter addressed to fellow stockholders, Kalaw said she was endorsing her proxies and votes to "persons who can better articulate" the issues facing the exchange. She did not identify these people but hinted that "they have placed their head on the line and signed legal documents ... for the good of the

greater number of original PSE stockholders," Kalaw wrote.

She also said that she supported the demutualization of the PSE or the conversion of the bourse into a stock corporation "but there are legal and moral standards" that she said should be upheld.

Kalaw and Luy belonged to the slate led by veteran stockbroker Robert Cuyuto Jr., who is nominated as broker-director in today's polls.

Cuyuto's group includes brokers Ismael Cruz, Filomeno Francisco who both sought a temporary restraining order from the Pasig regional trial court to stop new investors from voting their 40-percent interest in the PSE.

Brokers belonging to Cuyuto's group also include Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities, Felipe Yap of Lepanto Mining, and Eagle Equi-

ties president Joseph Roxas.

Cuyuto's group reportedly holds close to 80 proxy votes from broker shareholders.

Incumbent chair Alicia Arroyo, who is also angling for a second term at the PSE, is being backed by brokers Marita Limlingan of Regina Capital, Paul Wee of Accord Capital Equities, Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities and Ma. Erlinda Mafialac of First Integrated Capital.

Arroyo is said to have the support of investment group ATR Kim Eng, which owns 9.1 percent of the PSE.

For her part, veteran broker Vivian Yuchengco is supported by brokers William Ang, Robrina Go of UBS Securities, Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists Inc., and Joseph Madrid of Philippine Equity Partners.

25 VYING/B2

Car sales rise 51% as demand for AUVs slumps

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE AUTOMOTIVE industry yesterday reported a continued slowdown, with vehicle sales declining by 18.7 percent in February due to an increase in prices caused by the depreciation of the peso.

According to a joint report of the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association, vehicle sales last month stood at only 6,584 units compared to the 8,094 recorded in the same period last year.

The decline was brought mainly by the drop in the sales of commercial vehicles, which account for 60 percent of the vehicle market.

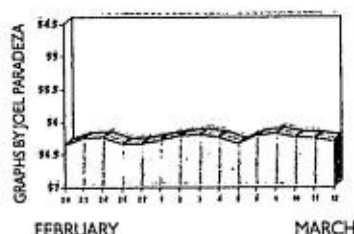
Commercial vehicles include light trucks, trucks and buses, Asian utility vehicles (AUVs) and light commercial vehicles (LCVs).

Sales of light trucks also declined by 29 percent to 125 units from 175 units in February last year.

However, the trucks and buses group posted a growth of 148 percent for the month. There

CAR/B2

INDICATORS CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 56.30 = \$
 As of 5 p.m., March 12, 2004

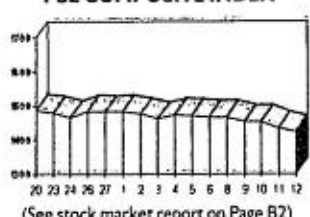
Y 111.36 = \$1
 As of 5 p.m., March 12, 2004

GOLD: \$397.80-398.30

per ounce Hong Kong, March 11, 2004

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



INTEREST RATES

March 12, 2004-MART1

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 12-Mar-04	MART1 11-Mar-04
1 Month	7.685	7.7018
3 Months	7.9167	7.9089
6 Months	8.9267	8.9571
1 Year	9.875	9.9125
2 Years	10.5567	10.6643
3 Years	11.1786	11.2385
4 Years	11.615	11.7429
5 Years	12	12.0268
7 Years	12.4933	12.65
10 Years	12.8833	12.975
20 Years	13.035	13.1357
25 Years	13.3767	13.4286

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG

Shares close 0.79% lower

SHARE prices closed 0.79 percent lower yesterday, hit by the downturn in world markets as the deadly bomb blasts in Madrid sparked fresh fears of possible terrorist attacks, dealers said.

Losses in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), Ayala Corp. and its units, and other blue chips pushed the market to its lowest finish this year.

The Madrid bombings hit the US equity markets overnight, with Asian American Depositary Receipts (ADRs), including those of PLDT, posting losses.

Dealers said global security concerns have re-emerged after the bomb attacks that claimed nearly 200 lives in Spain, further undermining already weak local sentiment due to uncertainties ahead of the May presidential elections.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 11.28 points to 1,423.79 after trading between 1,416.86 and 1,435.07. It was the weakest close since Dec. 22, when it finished at 1,421.03.

Turnover fell to 111.67 million shares valued at P623.4 million compared to 169.46 million shares worth P789.7 million traded on Thursday.

Losers led gainers 26 to seven, with 36 stocks unchanged.

The all-shares index was down 13.47 points at 904.12, the commercial-industrial index fell 17.53 to 2,214.35, property was off 0.78 at 512.12 and mining rose 12.83 to 1,471.62.

AFP

LOW RANGER
HIGH DOWNPAYMENTS AWAY!

Ford
 No Boundaries

BUILT Ford TOUGH

Own a brand new Ford Ranger for a downpayment of as low as **P86,000*** only!

Promo extended until March 31, 2004.** Get smart and grab this deal now!

*Applies to Trekker model.

**Approved by DTI NCR.



See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0257, Series of 2004
 www.ford.com.ph

• Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8811 / 8812 Fax No. 020 8813 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8814 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8815 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8816 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8817 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8818 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8819 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8820 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8821 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8822 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8823 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8824 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8825 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8826 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8827 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8828 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8829 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8830 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8831 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8832 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8833 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8834 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8835 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8836 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8837 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8838 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8839 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8840 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8841 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8842 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8843 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8844 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8845 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8846 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8847 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8848 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8849 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8850 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8851 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8852 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8853 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8854 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8855 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8856 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8857 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8858 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8859 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8860 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8861 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8862 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8863 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8864 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8865 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8866 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8867 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8868 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8869 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8870 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8871 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8872 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8873 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8874 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8875 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8876 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8877 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8878 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8879 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8880 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8881 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8882 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8883 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8884 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8885 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8886 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8887 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8888 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8889 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8890 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8891 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8892 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8893 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8894 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8895 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8896 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8897 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8898 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8899 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8900 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8901 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8902 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8903 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8904 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8905 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8906 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8907 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8908 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8909 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8910 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8911 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8912 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8913 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8914 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8915 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8916 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8917 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8918 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8919 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8920 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8921 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8922 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8923 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8924 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8925 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8926 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8927 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8928 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8929 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8930 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8931 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8932 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8933 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8934 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8935 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8936 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8937 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8938 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8939 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8940 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8941 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8942 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8943 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8944 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8945 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8946 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8947 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8948 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8949 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8950 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8951 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8952 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8953 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8954 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8955 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8956 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8957 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8958 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8959 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8960 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8961 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8962 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8963 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8964 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8965 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8966 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8967 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8968 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8969 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8970 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8971 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8972 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8973 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8974 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8975 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8976 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8977 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8978 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8979 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8980 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8981 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8982 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8983 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8984 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8985 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8986 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8987 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8988 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8989 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8990 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8991 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8992 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8993 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8994 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8995 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8996 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8997 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8998 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 8999 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9000 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9001 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9002 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9003 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9004 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9005 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9006 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9007 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9008 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9009 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9010 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9011 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9012 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9013 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9014 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9015 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9016 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9017 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9018 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9019 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9020 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9021 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9022 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9023 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9024 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9025 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9026 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9027 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9028 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9029 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9030 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9031 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9032 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9033 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9034 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9035 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9036 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9037 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9038 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9039 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9040 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9041 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9042 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9043 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9044 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9045 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9046 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9047 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9048 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9049 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9050 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9051 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9052 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9053 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9054 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9055 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9056 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9057 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9058 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9059 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9060 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9061 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9062 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9063 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9064 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9065 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9066 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9067 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9068 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9069 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9070 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9071 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9072 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9073 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9074 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9075 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9076 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9077 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9078 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9079 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9080 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9081 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9082 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9083 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9084 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9085 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9086 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9087 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9088 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9089 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9090 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9091 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9092 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9093 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9094 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9095 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9096 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9097 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9098 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9099 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9100 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9101 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9102 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9103 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9104 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9105 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9106 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9107 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9108 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9109 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9110 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9111 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9112 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9113 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9114 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9115 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9116 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9117 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9118 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9119 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9120 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9121 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9122 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9123 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9124 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9125 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9126 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9127 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9128 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9129 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9130 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9131 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9132 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9133 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9134 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9135 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9136 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9137 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9138 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9139 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9140 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9141 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9142 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9143 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9144 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9145 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9146 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9147 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9148 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9149 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9150 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9151 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9152 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9153 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9154 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9155 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9156 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9157 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9158 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9159 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9160 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9161 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9162 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9163 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9164 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9165 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9166 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9167 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9168 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9169 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9170 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9171 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9172 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9173 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9174 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9175 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9176 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9177 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9178 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9179 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9180 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9181 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9182 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9183 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9184 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9185 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9186 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9187 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9188 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9189 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9190 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9191 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9192 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9193 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9194 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9195 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9196 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9197 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9198 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9199 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9200 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9201 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9202 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9203 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9204 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9205 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9206 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9207 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9208 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9209 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9210 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9211 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9212 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9213 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9214 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9215 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9216 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9217 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9218 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9219 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9220 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9221 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9222 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9223 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9224 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9225 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9226 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9227 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9228 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9229 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9230 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9231 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9232 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9233 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9234 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9235 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9236 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9237 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9238 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9239 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9240 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9241 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9242 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 9243 • Ford Alabang, Inc. 020 924

Gov't raises anew Customs' collection target for this year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT has raised the revenue collection target of the Bureau of Customs to P12 billion this year, saying its "extremely good" performance in the first two months was an indication it could contribute much higher than its original target.

This was the second time the government has raised the BOC's target. The customs bureau was originally tasked to collect P105 billion for 2004. The figure was raised early this year to P110 billion, and it was later increased

further to P112 billion.

According to a source from the Department of Finance, the decision to further raise the target of the bureau was based on the projection that it could collect higher revenue because of the additional measures it recently undertook to improve collection performance.

In an earlier interview, Customs Commissioner Antonio Bernardo said the bureau had started re-engineering its operations to reduce cases of corruption and simplify transaction processes.

He said Malacañang had re-

leased P500 million early this year to fund automation of BOC's operations and thus streamline the government agency's operations.

Bernardo said the BOC would expand the coverage of its Internet-based transactions to allow more companies to pay duties with less hassle. He added that unnecessary requirements and signatories in the transactions with the BOC were being eliminated as part of its re-engineering.

"If they (BOC) were able to hit P106 billion in 2003, then it could collect much higher this

year," said the finance official.

The BOC last year collected P106.06 billion, surpassing its full-year target for the first time in many years.

The positive performance of the BOC in 2003 continued in the first two months of this year, as it surpassed its monthly targets for January and February.

Last January, the BOC collected P9.5 billion, or 12.6 percent higher than its P8.5-billion target. In February, it collected P8.425 billion, surpassing by over 19 percent its collection target of P7.045 billion for the month.

ChinaTrust raising P1B through new deposit facility

By Doris C. Dumlaog

CHINATRUST Commercial Bank Philippines plans to raise P1 billion through the introduction of a new five-year, tax-free deposit facility.

In a press briefing yesterday, Chinatrust executive vice president and treasury head Roland Avante said the launch of this new instrument, called INNOV8, could generate the targeted P1 billion in a month or two.

The fund placements will be used by Chinatrust to beef up its consumer business such as salary loans, personal loans and mortgages.

"We're targeting the high net-worth savers, the self-employed and people who have been shopping for good rates," Avante said.

INNOV8 combines both monthly interest rate pay-out at a fixed interest rate of 8 percent per year and a lump sum bonus at the end of the term equivalent to 0.8 percent per year, for five years.

Being a five-year time deposit instrument, the new facility is tax-exempt if the full term of five years is completed.

But the bank also gives a second option to investors who want to maximize their investments by keeping their funds untouched for five years. The facility guarantees that at the end of the term, the bank will return 150 percent of funds placed.

As such, a minimum investment of P100,000 will grow to P150,000 at the end of five years.

"INNOV8 combines the best of what the market has to offer today. Consumers today benefit from competitive rates of big banks that commit periodic interest payments. Other banks, meanwhile, offer better yields that can be enjoyed only after completing the quite lengthy five-year tenor," Avante explained.



RP'S PRIDE

A welder fabricates metal parts of a jeepney in a local manufacturing facility in Manila. Some 4,000 jeepneys will be exported to Papua New Guinea this March amounting to \$1.4 million. Philippine jeepney manufacturers are planning to tap bigger markets in Guam, India and Vietnam.

REUTERS

Banks urged to increase SME lending

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TRADE Secretary Cesar V. Purisima urged banks and other financial institutions to provide increased funding opportunities for small and medium enterprises as he called on foreign business groups to tap SMEs as suppliers or partners in their own businesses.

Purisima said that SMEs would have a better chance of shaping up for global competition if they had access to capital and financing.

The official noted that SMEs accounted for 99.6 percent of the

total registered companies in the country.

"SMEs contribute about 32 percent of our total gross domestic product," he said. "Increasing their operations through more access to credit would correspond to an increased growth in our GDP."

Purisima added that boosting SME growth was the key for the country to be competitive against fast-growing economies in Asia like China and Thailand.

The Department of Trade and Industry's "Sulong" program, a unified lending program for

SMEs, has released some P24.5 billion in loans to about 270,000 SMEs across the nation.

Purisima said direct lending to SMEs had declined.

Government data show that loans to SME went down to P227 million in June 2003 from P233 million in December 2002.

At the same time, Purisima urged foreign chambers of commerce in the country to consider partnering with SMEs.

He said many SMEs were reliable suppliers that could provide the needs of large companies. "The big firms can act as 'big brothers' to the small ones whose loyalty they can nurture and whose services they can help improve."

Purisima added: "Big companies can vouch for the credit worthiness of small suppliers so that

the SMEs can expand and hire more people."

Last month, Purisima had made the same call to the Chinese Filipino Business Club during the group's third national convention at the Manila Hotel.

He cited the example of Toyota Motor Philippines Inc., Planters Bank and Union Cement Corp. that provided training programs for SMEs.

Toyota put up the Toyota Supplier Club where 70 members get trained to improve quality, reduce costs and improve delivery on products and services.

"In the fast-food industry, we see the example of (chicken store) KFC that has about 150 suppliers, most of which are SMEs," Purisima went on. "Their total accounts payable amount to P26 million."

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE					
(As of March 12, 2004)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	1,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.75	12,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44.5	44.5	44	44	331,500
China Banking Corp.	655	655	655	655	440
Citystate Savings Bank	16.25	16.25	16.25	16.25	2,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	38.5	38.5	38.5	38.5	51,300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.57	0.59	1,590,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	25	25	24.5	24.75	183,000
Philippine National Bank	23.5	23.5	23.25	23.25	4,100
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	10,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	25.5	25.5	11,800
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1900	1910	1900	1910	20
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	150	150	150	150	610
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1450	1450	1440	1440	540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.5	22.5	22.25	22.25	6,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.65	800,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	850	850	835	840	71,450
People Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	25,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	100,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	1.62	1.66	1.62	1.62	6,333,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	890	895	885	890	281,870
Philweb Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.011	4,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	19.25	19	19	118,900
Manila Electric Co. B	31	31	30.5	30.5	411,100
Petrone Corp.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.95	1,227,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	14,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.36	1.38	1.36	1.38	302,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	2,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	9,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.5	17.5	121,500
Liberty Flour Mills Inc.	15	15	15	15	33,900
San Miguel Corp. A	56	56.5	56	56.5	64,300
San Miguel Corp. B	68.5	68.5	68.5	68.5	48,300
Universal Robina Corp.	5.7	5.9	5.7	5.9	449,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	500,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdq A	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Ayala Corp.	5.8	5.9	5.7	5.8	23,481,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	4,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.56	4,530,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1	1	1	1	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	22.75	22.75	22.75	869,100
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	100,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000
Medco Holdings	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	5,200,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	700,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	10,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	30,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	4,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.25	22.25	22	22	30,700
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.3	5.3	5.2	5.3	6,615,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.135	0.14	0.135	0.135	1,290,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.21	7,610,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	926,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	7,500,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.1	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.7	5.8	3,056,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	400,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	920,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	9,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	10,000,000
Philrex Mining Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	110,000
Philrex Mining Corp. B	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	100,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
OIL					
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	40,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
SHARES					
Bank & Fin Svc	2,198,810				24,173,200.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	61,933,120				1,014,142,832.00
PRO	27,007,000				56,228,380.00
Mining	20,830,000				601,400.00
OIL	50,000				7,900.00
GRAND TOTALS	112,018,930				1,095,153,712.00
AVERAGES					
Bank & Fin Svc	424.71				DOWN 5.16
Comm'l & Ind'l	2,214.35				DOWN 17.53
PRO	512.12				DOWN 0.78
Mining	1,471.62				UP 12.83
OIL	1.20				UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00				UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	904.12				DOWN 13.47
Composite	1,423.79				DOWN 11.28

NO. OF ADVANCES: 7; NO. OF DECLINES: 26; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 36; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 69; NO. OF TRADES: 1,381

CURRENCIES

March 12, 2004	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.809192	1.000000	56.2730
Japan	Yen	0.007300	0.009021	0.5076
United Kingdom	Pound	1.466419	1.812200	101.9779
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.103800	0.128276	7.2185
Switzerland	Franc	0.637913	0.788333	44.3619
Canada	Dollar	0.613303	0.757920	42.6504
Singapore	Dollar	0.473323	0.584932	32.9159
Australia	Dollar	0.594339	0.734484	41.3316
Bahrain	Dinar	2.163732	2.673940	150.4700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.215796	0.266681	15.0069
Brunei	Dollar	0.471942	0.583226	32.8199
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000116	0.0065
Thailand	Baht	0.020543	0.025387	1.4286
UAE	Dirham	0.220320	0.272272	15.3216
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.235800	69.5422
Argentina	Peso	0.277835	0.343348	19.3212
Brazil	Real	0.278264	0.343879	19.3511
Denmark	Kroner	0.134264	0.165923	9.3370
India	Rupee	0.017903	0.022124	1.2450
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.212974	0.263193	14.8107
Mexico	New Peso	0.073363	0.090662	5.1018
New Zealand	Dollar	0.521286	0.644205	36.2513
Norway	Kroner	0.116966	0.144546	8.1340
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014154	0.017492	0.9843
South Africa	Rand	0.121318	0.149925	8.4367
Korea	Won	0.000692	0.000855	0.0481
Sweden	Kroner	0.108850	0.134517	7.5697
Syria	Pound	0.015682	0.019380	1.0906
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024366	0.030111	1.6944
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000422	0.000522	0.0294

25 vying for 15-member . . .

From page B1

Yuchengco's group claims to have proxies held by the San Miguel Retirement Fund representing 9.1 percent of the PSE's capital stock.

Non brokers who sit today in the PSE board and who were recently nominated as directors include PSE president Cayetano Paderanga Jr., former Philippine National Bank president Peter Favila, lawyer Francisco Lim of the Angara Abello Concepcion Regala and Cruz (ACCRA) law office, San Miguel Corp. president Ramon Ang and WG&A president Enrique Aboitiz Jr.

Three non-brokers were also nominated-academician Raul Pangalanan, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia,

and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. treasurer Annabelle Chua.

To comply with the new Securities Regulation Code, the PSE restructured its 15-member board to consist of seven brokers and eight non-brokers, one of whom is the president of the exchange.

This was also after the PSE converted into a stock corporation or demutualized last August 2001 from a non-stock, broker-controlled organization. As part of its compliance to diversify its ownership, the PSE sold a 40-percent stake to the GSIS, the PLDT Beneficial Trust Fund, the SMC Retirement Fund, Kim Eng Investment Ltd., KE Strategic Pte. Ltd., A. Soriano Corp. and Equinox Partners.

Car sales rise 51% . . .

From page B1

were 52 units sold last month while only 21 units were sold in the same period last year.

Campi and TMA added that AUVs and LCVs continued to suffer a decline due to the imposition of the new excise tax law.

AUV sales went down 46 percent to 1,593 units last month from 2,949 units in February last year. LCV sales dropped 31 percent to 2,211 units from 3,222 a year ago.

It was a different story for passenger cars as the new tax system allowed assemblers to lower their prices, triggering a 51-percent jump in sales to 2,603 units last month from 1,727 passenger cars sold in February 2003.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. remained market leader with a 35-percent share. Toyota sold 2,307 vehicles (passenger cars and commercial vehicles) last month.

ISABELA-1 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Victoria, Alicia, Isabela
Tel. No. (078) 662-7103, 662-7983, 662-7810
FAX NO. (078) - 662-7103
- 662-7917

THE BUREAU of Animal Industry has recommended a ban on chicken products from the US State of Maryland, where the stock is believed to be infected with the avian flu virus.

The country has already imposed a similar ban on the importation of live poultry and other products from the states of Texas and Pennsylvania in the United States, and British Columbia in Canada.

The Philippines imports close to 1.4 million kilos of chicken from the US, and about 1,000 heads of live fighting cocks from Texas.

Christine Gaylican

KARL EDWARD INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Yes! we're right here at the BAGUIO CONVENTION CENTER. Enjoy your Lenten break while shopping at the Pine City. The COOLEST place in the Philippines this Summer.

Pine City (BAGUIO)
APRIL 4-11, 2004
9:00-5:00 PM

shop Pine City

Baguio Convention Center
 MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
Inquiries call: 3728453 / 3742440 / 374-3726

Decorative accessories, Arts & Crafts, Jewelry & Fashion accessories, Leather goods, Gifts Premium & Novelty Items, Housewares, Toys & Games, Candles & Scented, Ready to wear and more

WARNING TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby warned that the Mimosa Leisure Estate situated at the Clark Special Economic Zone is the subject of various cases pending in the Supreme Court (G. R. No. 161737 and G.R. No. 150986), Court of Appeals (CA-G. R. No. 56079, CA-G. R. No. 59623 and CA-G. R. No. 58302) and RTC-Angeles City (Civil Case No. 9596 and Civil Case No. 9242).

The resolution of any of the foregoing cases in favor of Mondragon may nullify the ongoing bidding of the Mimosa Leisure Estate.

Mondragon Group of Companies

ADVT.

SME Helpdesk

SME Business ...Now Made Easy

We provide you with the right solutions to help you improve your business' backroom processes and save on costs through our new...

SME Business Made Easy

EASY Checkwriter

- Prepare checks with attached vouchers automatically
- Instantly generate important report for check reconciliation
- Keep track of all your check disbursements easily

Simplify your check preparation, ensure a more secure, accurate check disbursement system and save on costs with Asiatrust Bank's Checkwriter Program.

Get ahead in your business with our other cash management products and services under our SME Business Made Easy Package:

- Easy Payroll Package
- Corporate Check-Cutting
- Deposit Pick-up Services
- Postdated Check Warehousing
- HMO Collection Manager... and more!

For more inquiries call : **924-5725** or e-mail us at marketing@asiatrustbank.com

ASIATRUST Bank
 Over 43 Years of Working for the Entrepreneur

Member: PDIC and **MegaLink**

A Private Development Bank

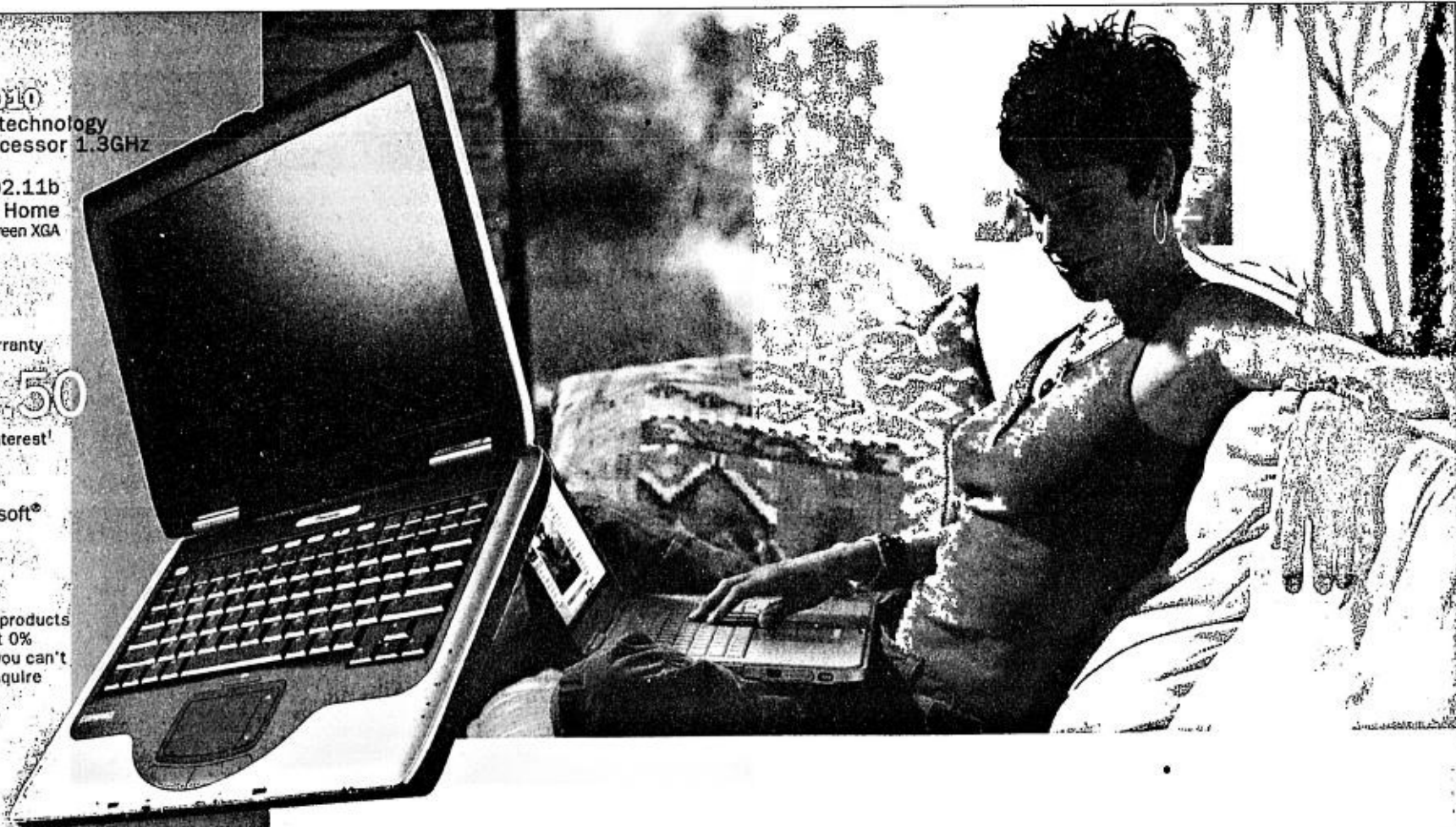
- Compaq Presario X1010**
- Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology
 - Intel® Pentium® M processor 1.3GHz
 - Intel® 855 chipset
 - Intel® Wireless LAN 802.11b
 - Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
 - 39.12cm (15.4") color TFT Widescreen XGA
 - 30GB HDD
 - CD-ROM
 - 56Kbps Modem
 - 10/100 LAN
 - 256MB DDR
 - 1-year, Worldwide Limited Warranty

PHP7,162.50
 per month for 12 months at 0% interest!
 (SRP PHP 85,950.00)

Compaq recommends Microsoft® Windows® XP Home.

GET MORE FOR LESS
 BPI offers other HP or Compaq products powered by Intel® processors at 0% interest for 6-12 months*. So if you can't get enough of HP technology, inquire at 1-800-1331-4488 or email ph.contact@hp.com

*Exclusive for BPI cardholders. Subject to bank approval. 0% applicable only if monthly dues are paid in full.



With the features of a desktop powered by Intel® processors, you'll want to take charge, at 0% interest.

The Compaq Presario X1010, powered by Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology, is the home notebook that satisfies the needs of even die-hard desktop users. Impressively lightweight, the unit is fitted with features at par with most PC's. You have multimedia tools that allow you to exercise your creativity and get some entertainment at home. Download movie trailers, listen to CD's and MP3 files, upload digital photographs, and watch your favorite movies. Do all these, whenever and wherever you want. Now, if it's connectivity you need, the Intel® Centrino™ mobile technology allows you to work, play and connect without wires. Communication options include a 56K modem for low-speed Internet and email access, a high-speed RJ-45 LAN connector and integrated Intel® Pro/Wireless 2100 802.11b wireless LAN. Now you can keep in touch with friends across the globe, send emails while having lunch outside, access on-line information for a research project, or play on-line games when you're outdoors. It's all the mobile convenience you deserve. And that's not all, from March 12 to 28, 2004, buy a Compaq Presario X1010 using your BPI credit card and you can avail of the 0% interest, 12-month installment plan. So get going, visit your Compaq Presario resellers today!

HP is #1 in Notebooks in the Philippines.*
 HP is #1 in Commercial PCs in the Philippines.*



FOR MORE INFO

Call (632) 867- 3557
 Or Toll-free 1- 800 -1331- 4488
 Or email ph.contact@hp.com



*Source: IDC Asia/Pacific Quarterly PC Tracker, 3Q 2003
 PARTICIPATING COMPAQ PRESARIO RESELLERS: ABC Computer Center • Accent Micro • Computer Marketing • Computer Computer Superstore • Electroworld • PC Live • Silicon Valley • TCA-The Computer Authority • Varian Computer Systems Inc.
 ©2004 Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. All rights reserved. Intel, Pentium, Intel Inside, and the Intel Inside logo and the Intel Centrino logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the United States and other countries. Other products mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Microsoft and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.
 PUBLISHED BY: PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, 1108, Series of 2004

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

Main Office: PASONG TAMON, MAKATI CITY
 ☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) ☎ 8974808
 G/F ATRIUM BLDG., MAKATI AVENUE, MAKATI CITY
 ☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114372 ☎ 8925578
 ST. ANTHONY'S BLDG., AURORA BLVD., QUEZON CITY
 ☎ 912-9008-11 ☎ 912-9008-12 ☎ 912-9008-13
 SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
 ☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872154 ☎ 6872166 ☎ 6350220
 G/F TRINITY BLDG., 626 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
 ☎ 5273342 ☎ 5274406 ☎ 5276357 ☎ 5280213
 ALABANG, MUNTINLUPA CITY
 ☎ 8424503 ☎ 8506465 ☎ 8506465
 e-mail address: main_classifieds@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 2004

P245 per column centimeter

RATES

P75 per line

(All prices exclusive of P-VAT)

DEADLINES

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
 Mondays to Saturdays
 12:00 noon
 Day before publication
 Sundays
 12:00 noon
 every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

RAPID Tx VD-STD
 Ex. SWEAT PIMPLES KELOID
 ALLERGY WARTS SKIN PEEL
 15 Annapolis Greenhills
 Call 7276124 - 25 8am-7pm

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
 Tx Comp Lab Tel 8175071
 Maricao 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

MASSAGE

(02)2581378 NICE GUYS

02-3233269 Summer Boys

ASK KIM MALE MASSEURS
 8537898 (0921)2520919

Mr BODY PHYSIQUE MASSAGE
 11A Kamias QC 4350978

H'SOME ATHLETES 8337361

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

MSG MIF 0919-274842 ANJO

THAI Msge Lic 0921-2020428

UNWIND 752-0437

REFLEXOLOGY

Edward 7289285 09194828467

Jason 3rd Massage 4372542

FIELD OF DREAMS 4160811

★FEELS GOOD 4127758★

MALE SPA 7314018

MILLENNIUM 934-7633

Wizard Massage 4213197/4227303

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LANGUAGES P1,950/8944311

LIGHT TUTORIAL 5301315

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

GOOD MAID YAYA INT COOK

BOY DRIVER 7572089/7284093

DIRECT MAID YAYA 7284093

A/A MAIDS W/ NBI 4386920

Best Maid Yaya Driver 9957034

Best Maid Yaya Cook 4214652

GOOD CARING MAIDS

535-93-17 • 0927-480-6767

GOOD MAIDS w/NBI 9957647

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAIDS 9268984/4331431

NEED MAIDS 783-4613

QUALITY MAIDS 421-3828

Yaya,Maid,Cook,Laba 8957507

LIPAT BAHAY

*731-6833-LIPAT

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424

P1000/TRIP 742-14-57

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMMERCIAL

MARIKINA

Com/Resl Three Mkna Hts

3BR 4TB Prime nr St. Scho.

Rustan 0917-323072; 9348979

COMM/RESID

QUEZON CITY

Kamias 6.7M Neg 45-3731

HOUSE & LOT

KALOOCAN

CAMARIN CAL CITY LA 240m²

FA 104m² 2Bdrms 1TB&P 1.2M

Via Gie 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS/BACOOR

2-4 BRS., 1-3 TB&B, 2 Storey

P5.0% 20 to Reserve 1% (car fee)

872-1340 • 872-3969

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FOR SALE or LEASE

CONDOMINIUM

- 3 storey 3 bedroom duplex/triplex
 FA; 268.27 sqm., LA; 112 sqm.
 Corinthian Place Condominium
 #38 Valencia St., Quezon City
- 2 storey, 3 bedroom Single detached
 Corinthian Villas Condominium
 Juan Posadas Ave., Posadas Vill.
 Sucat, Muntinlupa City
- 2 Units 21-B & 24-B (FA; 77 sqm. each)
 Kingswood Tower Pablo Ocampo St., Mktl City
- Unit 2010 (FA; 36.49 sqm.)
 Lower Penthouse Medical Plaza Condominium
 Amorsolo St., Makati City
- Unit-7 (FA; 39 sqm.) & Unit-8 (FA; 28 sqm.)
 Ivory Condominium, Camachile St., Malate,
 Manila

HOUSE & LOT

- 2 storey residential house & lot w/basement
 Unit-3C LA; 534 sqm., FA; 671 sqm.
 Unit-3D LA; 612 sqm., FA; 624 sqm.
 #778 Harvard St., Wack-Wack Subd.
 Mandaluyong City

RESIDENTIAL LOT

- Blk. 1, Lt. 19 (Area: 300 sqm.)
- Blk. 1, Lt. 23 (Area: 300 sqm.)
- Blk. 3, Lt. 12 (Area: 330 sqm.)
 Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City
- Blk. 4, Lt. 1, 3 (Area: 328 sqm.)
 Canyon Wood Resort, Laurel, Batangas
- Phase 1-A Blk. 2, Lt. 15 (Area: 478 sqm.)
 Manila Southwoods, Carmona, Cavite

OFFICE/COMMERCIAL SPACE

- Unit-114 (FA; 56.20 sqm.)
- Unit-131 (FA; 27.00 sqm.)
- Unit-347 (FA; 49.94 sqm.)
 Mile Long Theme Center
 V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
- Unit L-14b1 (FA; 147.67 sqm.)
 Lower Ground Floor
 Makati Cinema Square
 Don Chino Rocas Ave., M.C.
- Unit S-Xb (FA; 123.65 sqm.)
 The Gallery Bldg.
 Amorsolo St., Makati City
- Japa Bldg. 3 storey (FA; 746.26 sqm.)
 Don Chino Rocas Ave., Makati City
- Office Warehouse (Area: 5,736 sqm.)
 Located at Bayan-Bayanang Ave.
 Concepcion 1, Marikina City
- 4 floors & a warehouse
 ground floor (Area; 105.73 sqm.)
 2nd floor (Area; 113.03 sqm.)
 3rd floor (Area; 113.03 sqm.)
 #506-510 J.P. Rizal St.
 Brgy. Olympia, Makati City
- 5th floor Electr. House (FA; 673.72 sqm.)
 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
- 2nd floor Mampisan (FA; 480 sqm.)
 Mampisan, Biñan, Laguna
- Corinthian Plaza (FA; 76 sqm. & 167 sqm.)
 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

COMMERCIAL LOT

Lot Area 3,528 sqm.
 Along Ma-a Road Davao City

MEMORIAL LOT

Area 1m² 2.44m Golden Haven
 Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City

MACHINERIES & EQUIPMENT

- GIBEN FASTMATIC MLC BEANSAW
 Use to cut boards evenly with computer aided
 accuracy to avoid misalignment when installed
- HOLZER 1436 EDGEBINDER
 Use to trim excess and bind edges with vinyl to
 completely wrap the board for added protection
- MORBIELLI MACHINING CENTER
 (Model A502SR C.N.C.)
 Use to routes and bores to precise measurement
 to capture the profile of intricate designs with
 consistent quality.
- ORMAC MACHINE MEMBRANE PRESS
 4. AUTOMATIC IMPULSE SEALING (PE)
 PACKAGING MACHINE FFS MACHINE
 VOLPAK VEB-280
- AUTOMATIC FILLING/PACKING MACHINE

For more details please contact:
 Edith Gener Tel. Nos. 8437671, 8178211,
 8161384, 8438204 Fax No. 8438206
 Alice Morales Tel. Nos. 8438061, 8433190
 Fax No. 8161691
 Nilda Agoo Tel. No. 8444895
 Chito Arceo Tel. No. 8444895
 Ruben Santos Tel. No. 8434295

HOUSE & LOT

MAKATI

FORBES

Direct Call Pls. 8173544

MKT NR AYALA

Bnew Tenhse/3stry/3br/2lb/grge

P3 280M 8903461 loc 34

MANILA

Sing nr St.Sch La Sal 5268632

MARIKINA

3BR 2TB Store 1car grge

#25Soliven Pk Greenhills

Nangka Mkna 240m² 160FA

P3.5M Cal 0918-6590234

475-0925 Mrs. Bagulo

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.6M 9487112

PARANAQUE

Can't Beat Price New 3BR/3B

Nice Subd. 09178400295

QUEZON CITY

BELICIA HOMES

TEACHERS VILLAGE

#73 Matimilman St

5BRS, 4TB&B All Concrete

w/rooldeck 2car garage

w/Cistern, Elegant, Exclusive

P 3.7M ONLY

C.M. ILIGAN REALTY

DEVT. CORPORATION

(Owner/Developer)

439-6921 • 436-4765

436-4766 • 437-0769

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

NEW INTRAMUROS VILL

Arch. hse 5.5M neg 9510720

New Mla 500m² 0917-8493699

P381,000/unit condo 2Kms fr. SM

Fairview 3D - 60M² Pag-ibig

8179650 / 9750 / 0919-2302129

RUSH SALE!!!

NEGOTIABLE

SAMAR AVE

nr GMA7 QC

4BR3TB 375m² 8.5M Bungalow

Title 09194014983/9511624

Rush Sale! Tandang Sora

See to appreciate

direct buyers only 453-4819

BULACAN

Nr Muzon 1,700/mo 9390299

09194014983 / 9511624

CAVITE

4BR 2TB&B 221m² 2.5M Myrna

046-4722913 Bacoar Cavite

LAGUNA

BELAIR 2-5BR Lots Also Avbl

Kaka 8744449/0917-8311323

LAGUNA BEL-AIR LA 132m²

3Bdrms 2TB&B FA&M² P1 85M

Vic 8903461 loc 27/25

BATANGAS



Your Home for Life.

HOUSE & LOT

package for as low as

P7,232/mo*

*Bank financing.
 In-house financing
 also available.

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

P7,232/mo*

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given of estate of the late ALVIN A. PAPA was extrajudicially settled w/sale by the heirs as per Doc#455 Page#2 BookXIII Series 2004 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Magsanoc of Marikina City. PDI-March 6,13&20, 2004

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SOCORRO T. JAMILI has been extrajudicially settled with deed of absolute sale among her heirs before Notary Public Joaquin L. Delos Santos as per Doc. No. 335, Page No. 71, Book No. VII, Series of 2004. (PDI-Feb. 26, Mar. 6 & 13, 2004)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of PELAGIA S. VIRAY was extrajudicially settled among heirs before Notary Public Danilo Leyte Rizal Chap. per Doc#441 Page#89 Book#133 Series of 2004 (PDI-March 13, 20 & 27, 2004)

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER TO ST. JUDE O, Holy St. Jude apostle and martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracles, near in kinship of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depths of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present, urgent petition (make your request). In return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. Saint Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Pray this nine times a day for nine consecutive days. On the eight day your prayers will be answered, for this prayer has never known to fail. Please don't forget to publish this once your wish is granted MMJR

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

GLOBAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

that assists in air management in polluted cities worldwide. Send email enquiries to: GlobalBiz@yahoo.com.sg

High Achievers to Expand Global Biz @ only P16K! Text: 0917-3605476 Now

High Achievers Can Expand Our Biz to Earn P420K P/s Call Jean 0927-2135532

I NEED MEDICINES HOSP SUPPLIES & EQUIPT ANY QNTY TXT /CALL09275282875 Kristine

RTW Consign 09167940002

Singapore Bizmen Looking for Crazy Entrepreneurs who want to wear tailor made clothes & drive fancy sports cars. Will train. Call 0927-5680230

FRANCHISING

Bnew! Hair Salon 4 Sale 0917-8980476 P1.9M

DIRECT SALE

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN TRMS M/T B FUL/DVD 984-2665

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Php30,000 per month plus commission. Franchise and tele-marketing company needs 2 experienced salesmen - work in comfortable office with qualified leads. 35 to 50 years old with fluent English. Fax resume to Mr. Philip Cuevas at 8963615.

FEMALE

Rush Good Maid NBI 4307061

Teacher Bsed w/ Govt Lic. 655-9609

MALE/FEMALE

OH (CHRISTIAN/MUSLIM): COOK, BEAUTICIAN ALL AROUND RECEPTIONIST: MASON /CARPENTER: BUILDING PAINTER: AV TECHNICIAN: DENTIST: NURSE: SECRETARY CALL US 5300159 / 5224435 LOOK PERLA O R J O E Y

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING PROGRAM W/CERTIFICATE 5212773 5614990 5899958

JOB HIRING 09167054572 AINA

OFC MKTG AST 09203562010 IRA

OFC MKTG STAFF Start Agpd w/pay 7498760/4217569 7838730/918307688Adan

Ofc/Mrking Stf 09208062187

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Own your Int'l Biz with high global profits, proven success. Gateway to USA, introduced by Singapore MNC. STEVEN 09163963096, www.buildworldbiz.com

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

Office Mktg Staff 18-45 Coll grad/level 4389340 Andrea

*Pre-School Teacher F/S Educ. grad./undergrad. w/ or w/out exp. res of L. Pinas, Munt. p r e f e r d *Cellphone/Comp. Repair Trainers Email resume: belair_english@yahoo.com

S&I Technologies (Asia) Pte Ltd

Primary Distributor for UGS PLM Solutions in the Philippines.

Looking for :

BUSINESS PARTNER

- o To resell CAD/CAM/CAE/PLM software
- o Willing to invest & expand their existing business through selling high-value IT solutions
- o Committed & dedicated to provide sales & technical expertise
- o Willing to collaborate with other existing business partners



Interested companies please send application by email to: marvin.tan@si-asia.com

AN ESTABLISHED SECURITY AGENCY NEEDS:

ACCOUNTING CLERK

with the following qualifications.

- B.S. Accounting graduate
- Computer literate
- Experience preferred but not required

Interested applicant may send his/her resume together with an I.D. picture indicating the desired salary to:

P.O. Box 1295, Manila
or apply in person at:
626 Araneta Avenue, Quezon City
(Infront of Funeraria Paz)

For its ongoing expansion...

SAN LORENZO SCHOOL

is in need of ELEMENTARY and HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS For the following subjects:

MATHEMATICS A.P. THE
ENGLISH FILIPINO SCIENCE
HELE PEHM

Apply in person with comprehensive resume and transcript of records;

SLS Guidance Office from M-F 8:00-5:00
Mayumi Street, United San Pedro Subdivision,
San Pedro 4023, Laguna, Philippines
Telefax: 869-1069 / 869-4654
Or e-mail us at sls-adm@tri-lsys.com

Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.



www.jobmarketonline.com



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority in Region VII, with its official address at Baniad, Cebu City, is inviting all interested vessel or barge owners/operators to apply for eligibility and to bid under the Letter Agreement for Vessel/Barge Hire for the shipment of rice as indicated below:

VOLUME SCHEDULED FOR SEA DISPERSAL

Source	Destination		Quantity (bag)	Freight Rate (P/bag)	Approved Budget for the Contract	Type of Carrier/ Max. Cap. (bags)
	Province	Port				
CEBU CITY	Cebu Islands - Bantayan Is. - Camotes Is.	Sante Fe Poro Tudela	77,000	17.00	1,309,000.00	Vessel - 10,000
			21,000	14.90	312,900.00	Vessel - 7,000
			11,000	15.40	169,400.00	Barge - 4,000
CEBU	Bohol	Tagbilaran Ubay	88,000	18.30	1,610,400.00	Vessel - no limit
			12,000	15.40	184,800.00	Barge - 4,000
	Negros Or. Siquijor	Dumaguete Larena	100,000	17.00	1,700,000.00	Vessel - no limit
CEBU	N. Leyte	Tacloban Ormoc	167,000	21.80	3,640,600.00	Vessel - no limit
			13,000	18.50	240,500.00	Vessel - no limit
	S. Leyte	Maasin	47,000	18.50	869,500.00	Vessel - 10,000
	Baybay	Baybay	13,000	17.50	227,500.00	Vessel - 16,000
	Biliran	Naval	40,000	19.80	792,000.00	Vessel - 10,000
	E. Samar	Borongan	80,000	28.00	2,240,000.00	Vessel - 18,000
	Guian	Guian	20,000	23.50	470,000.00	Vessel - 13,000
	N. Samar	San Jose	95,000	22.20	2,109,000.00	Vessel - no limit
	W. Samar	Calbalogan	100,000	19.80	1,980,000.00	Vessel - no limit
	Calbayog	Calbayog	25,000	19.80	495,000.00	Vessel - no limit
CEBU	Maguindanao	Cotabato	67,000	25.50	1,708,500.00	Vessel - no limit

Summary of Bidding Procedures

The Bidding shall be governed by RA 9184. A single stage Two Envelope System of evaluation will be adopted. Envelope A shall contain the eligibility requirements as specified in the instruction to Bidders which will be evaluated in a non-discretionary "Pass" or "Fail" criteria. Only those who complied with all the requirements shall be declared "Eligible" and shall proceed to the next phase which is the opening of Envelope B. Envelope B shall contain the accomplished and signed Bid Form.

Bids will be ranked from lowest to highest to determine the Lowest Calculated Bid. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid shall undergo post qualification by the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) to verify, validate and ascertain statements made and documents submitted in the eligibility requirements. After which, the bidder shall be declared "Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid" and shall be recommended for awarding of the contract.

Schedule of Activities as follows:

Activity	Date/s	Time
Issuance of Bidding Documents	March 15-24, 2004	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 31, 2004	9:00 AM
Submission & Opening of Bids	April 13, 2004	9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Interested bidders may secure the bidding documents from the RBAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NFA, Region VII, Cebu City after payment of a non-transferable, non-refundable application fee of P2,000.00. Bidders or their authorized representatives are required to be present during the opening of sealed bids. For further inquiries, you may call the undersigned in the following numbers: (032) 232-1939 and (032) 232-6832.

The NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals, to waive any informality or defect found therein, and may accept bids which are deemed most advantageous to the Agency

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Assistant Regional Director / RBAC Chairman

(PDI - March 13 & 19 2004)

TABLET CUTTER / MEDICINE SPLITTER
A quality product distributed by
LST SUMMIT, INC.
507 Policarpio Street,
Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (6-32) 532-5275 / 532-6374 /
532-0127 / 532-0432 / 534-3812
**AVAILABLE IN ALL
mercury drug
NATIONWIDE



NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12(A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION WHICH EXPIRED AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2003 EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2004.

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED. FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

(Sgd.) ASST. DIR. JAIME LASARO L. OLMOS
Caretaker, BTRCP

(PDI - March 13, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines Province of Zambales Municipality of Candelaria Office of the Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

February 23, 2004

The Municipal Government of Candelaria, Zambales will conduct bidding for materials and labor of various Infrastructure Projects to be held at the Office of the BAC Chairman on March 23, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

- A. Items to Bid
- A.1 Various Infrastructure Projects (pls. inquire at the office of the Municipal Engineer/MPDC, Candelaria, Zambales)
- B. Requirements
- B.1 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Business Name Registration or SEC Registration
- B.2 Valid and Current Mayor's Permit / Municipal License
- B.3 Taxpayers and Identification Number (TIN)
- B.4 Statement of the Prospective Bidder that it is not blacklisted or barred from bidding by the government, or any of its agencies or instrumentalities, including non-inclusion in the consolidated blacklisting report issued by the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) as provided in accordance with the guidelines to be issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of IRR-A or R.A. 9184.
- B.5 Statement of the Prospective Bidder of all its ongoing and completed government and private contracts awarded but not yet started if any.
- B.6 For Infrastructure Projects:
- a valid PCAB License.
- B.7 Audited Financial Statement stamped "received" by the BIR for the last two (2) years.
- B.8 Business or individual Income Tax Return for the past (2) two years.
- B.9 Deadline for the submission of necessary documents shall be on March 16, 2004.
- *** PLEASE BRING LATEST AND ORIGINAL DOCUMENT FOR VERIFICATION ***
- C. Funding Source - Second Congressional District PDAF
- D. The LGU of Candelaria, Zambales reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects in them, and award to bidder whose bid is most advantageous to the government.
- For particular, you may contact ENGR. EDWIN E. EBDANE, BAC Member, Municipal Planning and Development Office at Cell # 09263267881 / 09275171127

(Sgd.) EDILBERTO H. COLLADO
MBO / BAC Chairman

(PDI - March 6 & 13, 2004)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES LOGISTICS COMMAND
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

SD-PRDO

INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Logistics Command will conduct a Pre-Bidding/Pre-Qualification conference for the sale through public bidding of one (1) lot of Eitool's manufacturing equipment of M16 Rifle Plant located at SROP Complex Pl. Bonifacio and at AFP Logistics Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. AFPLC (TBT) 2004-001 on "As-Is, Where-Is" basis on 25 March 2004 at 10:00 a.m. at the Plaza Park Pavilion, AFP Logistics Command, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

Interested buyers may secure their Bid Forms at the Secretariat, PRDO Supply Depot, AFPLC, Point of Contact, LTC JOEL I. ENRILE (JOMS) PA Commanding Officer, Supply Depot, AFPLC at PLDT Tel. Number 9116761 and 911-6001 local 4540 and 4455 (PRDO).

(Sgd.) GEORGE F. CATAMEO
CDR (GSC) PR
Chairman, AFPLC
Disposal Committee

(PDI - March 13, 14 & 15, 2004)



Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on March 24, 2004, 2:00 p.m., Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE METRO MANILA TS-01	Amang Rodriguez Ave., Brgy. Manggahan, Pasig City	66,536 m ² vacant lot (TCT No. PT-79453) (co-owned by PNB, LBP and DBP)	P 399,216,000.00
BAGUIO AMD-MIL-111	Bo. Lucban (now Bo. Ambiong) Baguio City	18,517 m ² two (2) adjoining interior parcels of vacant lots (TCT Nos. T-79824 and T-79823)	P 37,034,000.00
BATAAN	Sta. Monica Homes, Sitio Wiswis, Camaya, Mariveles	Residential lots with bldg. & imprvmts.	
AMD-PY-112	Lot - 45 Bk - 8	50 m ² TCT No. T-229490	P 240,800.00
AMD-PY-113	22 20	50 m ² TCT No. T-229498	123,700.00
AMD-PY-114	8 9	50 m ² TCT No. T-229500	180,000.00
AMD-PY-115	49 8	50 m ² TCT No. T-229493	133,700.00
AMD-PY-116	3 9	50 m ² TCT No. T-229485	137,200.00
BATANGAS	Transville Homes Subd., Banay-Banay, Lupa City	Residential lots with bldg. & imprvmts.	
AMD-MC-117	Lot - 17 Bk - 13	40 m ² TCT-141653	P 151,300.00
AMD-PY-118	8 10	40 m ² TCT-141652	P 153,300.00
AMD-PY-119	20 30	40 m ² TCT-140591	P 170,700.00
AMD-PY-120	21 2	40 m ² TCT-140574	P 158,700.00
AMD-MIL-121	7 11	40 m ² TCT-141648	P 156,000.00
AMD-MIL-122	4 11	40 m ² TCT-141655	P 153,700.00
AMD-MIL-123	32 2	40 m ² TCT-140584	P 158,700.00
AMD-MIL-124	26 2	40 m ² TCT-141647	P 156,000.00
AMD-MIL-125	25 31	40 m ² TCT-140568	P 181,300.00
AMD-MIL-126	20 13	40 m ² TCT-140595	P 156,000.00
AMD-MIL-127	6 13	40 m ² TCT-140589	P 156,000.00
AMD-MIL-128	20 11	40 m ² TCT-140577	P 156,000.00
AMD-MIL-129	11 13	40 m ² TCT-140598	P 153,700.00
AMD-MIL-130	15 13	40 m ² TCT-140581	P 206,000.00
AMD-MIL-131	18 30	40 m ² TCT-140596	P 159,000.00
AMD-MIL-132	10 11	44 m ² TCT-140599	P 202,200.00
AMD-MIL-133	1 10	59.4 m ² TCT-140569	P 234,700.00
AMD-MIL-134	7 7	60 m ² TCT-140588	P 348,000.00
AMD-MIL-135	11 3	60 m ² TCT-141654	P 201,300.00
AMD-MIL-136	12 13	60 m ² TCT-140594	P 255,800.00
AMD-PY-137	19 7	60.5 m ² TCT-141651	P 255,800.00
AMD-PY-138	8 3	61.6 m ² TCT-141650	P 226,900.00
AMD-MIL-139	12 11	69.3 m ² TCT-141646	P 241,200.00
AMD-MIL-140	2 11	74.1 m ² TCT-140576	
BULACAN AMD-MC-141	Sta. Niño St., Poblacion, Bustos	2,583 m ² industrial/residential lot (TCT T-170606) with bldg. & imprvmts	P 5,839,000.00
CHATELLE (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
CWB-17a	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Topkit Static Tower Crane, POTAIN	P 538,200.00
CWB-17b		1 unit Traylor mounted high pressure concrete pump, SCHWING	P 229,000.00
CWB-18	Bldg. No. 639, Gndley St., SRF Compound, Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Subic, Zambales	Various machinery and equipment used for food processing	P 24,000.00
			to 11,311,600.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

- To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
- To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours, and
- To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers
803-7172 or 818-0511 loc. 2218/2252 for Code starting with AMD & TS, and
926-1686 or 818-0511 loc. 1411 for CWB

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI March 12 & 13 2004)

A leading law firm in Quezon City needs

LAWYERS

- must be successful examinees of 2001 or 2002 Bar Exams
- graduate of U.P., Ateneo or San Beda
- must be interested in trial and corporate practice

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig
(632) 845-2334 to 38 loc. 109/112
Sales@heritagepark.com.ph

**Mortuary and Crematory
opening soon!**

B6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY,
MARCH 13, 2004

OBITUARIES

We've added another
dignified service to keep the memory
of your departed loved ones.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY

143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kalayaan Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No. 712-2782

**104
years**

In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of

GUIA ANARETA SANTIAGO

December 29, 1907 - March 13, 2003

Holy Masses will be offered today, March 13, 2004 at the following churches:

1. St. Francis Catholic Church
Ann Arbor, Michigan 5:00 PM
2. Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish Church
New Manila, Quezon City 6:00 AM
3. National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary
Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon City 7:15 AM
4. Christ the King Parish Church
Greenmeadows, Quezon City 7:00 AM
5. Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church
UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City 6:30 AM
6. Imus Cathedral
Imus, Cavite 6:30 AM
7. Christ the King Church
Project 7, Quezon City 5:30 pm

Her children, Milagros and Curtis Simmons, Alexis and Josephine Santiago, Ramon and Dada Santiago and Jose and Lucille Santiago and her grandchildren request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

ARCH. ROD PLANES PINEDA

Ateneo de Manila H.S. Class '55
UST College of Architecture

Peacefully passed away in the Grace of
our Lord on March 11, 2004 at the age of 66.

His loving mother Chuchi, brother Mardo (†); sisters Carole (†) and Jessie; sister-in-law Ruth; nieces and nephews, Michelle and Warren, Roschael & Calen, Michael, Raffy, Gabby, Uriel & May, Robert & Charles; cousins, the Sarmientos, Planeses, Ignacios, Escuetas, Tallons, Santos, Romero and all relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at #10 Dama de Noche St.,
Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 14, 2004 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DENNIS S.V. VELASCO

who passed away last February 29, 2004

wish to express our sincerest thanks to our relatives & friends,
who offered flowers, prayers and condoled with us during the
time of our bereavement.

AUREA MAGLAYA BUENO

of Caba, La Union

Peacefully joined our Lord on March 12, 2004
at the age of 76.

Her bereaved husband VICTORIO; children Patricia,
Christine, David & Yolly, Daniel & Ched, Dennis (†) & Lhet,
Donald & Amy; grandchildren and great grandchildren,
nephews and nieces and other relatives request the pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 12 A, La Funeraria Paz, Inc.,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Monday, March 15, 2004
at Himilayang Pilipino.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

SEVERINA CONCEPCION VERGARA

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on March 5, 2004

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest
appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent
flowers and messages of sympathy and who in countless
ways, condoled and comforted us in our bereavement.

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever
believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16**

CLASSIFIEDS



GIA

Thailand Campus

Learn about Gems & Jewelry

From the world's foremost authority in gemology
70 year history of excellence in education
over 300,000 students worldwide

GIA Graduate Gemologist Diploma
the most recognized gemological credential

G.G. Program starts May 31, 2004

GIA Thailand Since 1993

Tel: (662) 237-9575 / 77

Fax: (662) 236-9829

giathai@ksc15.th.com

www.giathailand.com



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Marikina Avenue,
Pasig City, Philippines



Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID ADM 04-03-01

The Department of Education is inviting all security agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Security Services of DepEd for 2004. The approved budget for the security services shall be P11,614,860.00.

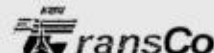
All interested security agencies may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos (P300.00) starting March 8 - 26, 2004 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at <http://www.deped.gov.ph>.

A pre-bid conference will be held on March 19, 2004, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on April 2, 2004 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI - March 6 & 13, 2004)



ransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

March 10, 2004

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Budget of the Project to be bid	Source of Budget
TRANS-04-ROHGWGL-EG-03 Replacement of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV TL 1	Gumaca-Labo	Sixty (60) calendar days (for procurement and delivery of materials) and plus Seventy (70) working days (for replacement/installation works) based on approved work/shutdown schedule by the Corporation	Php 10,101,382.20	ICG

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be Replacement of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire Along Gumaca-Labo 230 kV Transmission Line 1.

Prospective bidders must have single completed similar contract involving supply and installation of overhead ground wires for high voltage transmission lines and which value must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB (Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB Special License for this project).

License Particular	at least "Category B - Specialties"
Registration Particular	at least "Medium A - Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting March 13, 2004 up to April 02, 2004 at the Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Bldg., Laguna, Telefax No. 520-8213 and E-mail Address: irislano@ransco.com.ph upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P800.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 2:00 P.M. of April 05, 2004 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. Opening and Eligibility Screening shall be held on the same date and time specified. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. (Note: This invitation was based on Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.)

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Dep. Manager, PSMD North
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 13, 2004)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY & TO BID

SALE OF POS TERMINALS

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the sale of one (1) lot (for actual verification) POS Terminals as supported by waste material reports and inventory and inspection reports, on "as-is where-is" basis.

Location : SSS Main Building East Ave., Quezon City

Minimum Bid Price: P2,000,000.00

This is a re-publication.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Particulars	Date	Venue
Issuance of eligibility requirements	March 15 to 25, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Fl., SSS Main Bldg.
Deadline of submission of eligibility requirements	March 30, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Fl., SSS Main Bldg.
Issuance of Bidding Documents to Eligible Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00	March 31, 2004	BAC Secretariat, 6th Fl., SSS Main Bldg.
Pre-bid Conference	Apr. 02, 2004 2:00 p.m.	Bidding Room, 6th Fl., SSS Main Bldg.

Submission & Opening of Bids shall be announced and confirmed through a Bid Bulletin

For any inquiry, please call telephone numbers 922-2991 or 920-6401 local 5490/5491.

This bidding shall be governed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act."

The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made.

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI - March 13, 2004)



ransCo
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

March 10, 2004

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Transmission Corporation South Luzon Operation & Maintenance invites interested Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the proposed project/undertaking listed hereunder:

Contract Code/Title	Location	Duration	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Budget
TRANS-04-ROHGWGX2-EG-02 Replacement of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire along Gumaca-Kalayaan 230 kV TL (Phase II)	Gumaca-Kalayaan	Sixty (60) calendar days (for procurement and delivery of materials and plus Thirty (30) working days (for replacement/installation works) based on approved work/shutdown schedule by the Corporation	Php 3,606,220.51	ICG

The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall be Replacement of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire Along Gumaca-Kalayaan 230 kV Transmission Line (Phase II).

Prospective bidders must have single completed similar contract involving supply and installation of overhead ground wires for high voltage transmission lines and which value must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Application for eligibility is open to Filipino contractors with the following valid License and Registration Particulars issued by PCAB (Application is also open to a joint venture of Filipino and foreign contractors with PCAB Special License for this project).

License Particular	at least "Category B - Specialties"
Registration Particular	at least "Medium A - Electrical Works" (Power Transmission & Distribution)

Applications for Eligibility (legal, technical and financial documents and statements) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by NTC in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding, and shall be subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Application for Eligibility and Eligibility Forms will be available for issuance starting March 13, 2004 up to April 02, 2004 at the Regional Contracts Management Office, NTC Bldg., Laguna, Telefax No. 520-8213 and E-mail Address: irislano@ransco.com.ph upon presentation of Letter of Intent, original PCAB License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P800.00 per copy.

Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Eligibility Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before 10:00 A.M. of April 05, 2004 and shall be submitted at the office and address mentioned above. Opening and Eligibility Screening shall be held on the same date and time specified. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.

NTC reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.

Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communication should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address. (Note: This invitation was based on Republic Act No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.)

(Sgd.) G.R. LISTANO
Dep. Manager, PSMD North
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 13, 2004)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health

CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT-LOCOS

City of San Fernando, La Union
City Office: 242-4773 & (072) 242-5315
e-mail address: cdhreg@rlu.chd.com.ph
Fax No. (072) 242-4774

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Center for Health Development-LOCOS (CHD-Region-1) hereby invites interested suppliers to prequalify and to bid for:

**SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF DRUGS/MEDICINES
AND MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SUPPLIES**

Total Amount: Php 2,400,000.00
Fund Source: GOP

Interested parties may secure their pre-qualification and bid forms at the Office of the Regional Bids and Awards (RBAC) Chairman/Secretary, CHD-City of San Fernando, La Union between March 15-22, 2004 after payment of a non-refundable fee of Php500.00.

Pre-bid Conference is set on 22 March 2004 at 9:00 A.M. All bids must be received not later than 10:00 am (based on the CHD-1 Official Clock) of April 5, 2004 at the CHD-1 Conference room and the opening of bids shall immediately follow thereafter.

The CHD-1 RBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect therein, or accept proposals as may be deemed advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO C. JANAIRIO, MD, MPH
Regional Director

(PDI-March 13 & 14, 2004)

Double smash '04

UP Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (UP JPIA) and BIOESSENCE invite you to gear up and to ready those rackets for a day of scorching action in Double Smash Badminton Cup (all-doubles tournament). This will be held on March 13, 2004, Saturday, 9 a.m. at West Drive Badminton Center (Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City). Open to all amateur badminton players of ages 18 years and above. Please register as a pair for a

registration fee of Php250/person for students (inclusive of a t-shirt) and Php300/person for non-students (inclusive of a t-shirt). For more information please contact, JD -0917-8992335 or Ver - 0917-6927399. Or log on to www.geocities.com/doublesmash2004 to register. Proceeds of this endeavor will go to Long Term Educational Assistance for Deserving Students (Leads).

The "SUV" show in 2 great venues

WITH the onslaught of the high-tech, pioneering designs of the new and exciting SUVs (sport utility vehicle), this show gonna wow them all! After its highly successful event in the past years, 33rd Street Production bring anew back its Rough & Tough, The Off-Road Show on weekends in March in two premier malls in the coun-

try: March 12, 13 & 14 at the Activity Center, Alabang Town Center and 26, 27 & 28 March at Rockwell Power Plant Mall.

This year alone, the show includes a gamut of outdoorsy activities in a summer enclave feel within the comforts of the city: the latest & modified SUVs, dirt and mountain bikes, water & sports apparel,

communication equipment, adventure travel package and more. And to beat the scorching hot summer feel, the event will be filled with rock-climbing wall competition, fashion show, live band shows and hourly raffle. Indeed, not only for the sports/outdoorsy aficionados but the whole family as well!

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Understanding key to dealing with autism

By Charles E. Buban

WHEN dealing with autistic children, it is important to remember that they are not mentally retarded; they just don't have the ability to control behavior in any way, shape or form.

Experts during a health forum organized by the Philippine College of Physicians and Mirror Monthly magazine said these children may never learn as well or be as functioning as "normal" ones, but their condition is not due to mental incapacitation.

"Autism is a developmental disability that severely hinders the way information is gathered and processed, causing problems in communication, learning and social behavior," said Cecile Sicam, Bridges Foundation special teacher on autism.

Once considered a rare psychological condition, autism has been found throughout the world in families of all racial, ethnic and social backgrounds, occurring in roughly 15 to 20 out of every 10,000 births. It is four times more common in males than in females.

First 3 years

Autism typically manifests during the child's first three years when parents

may notice delays in language, play or social interaction.

But there are differences among children with autism.

Experts say symptoms and characteristics of autism may present themselves in a wide variety of combinations, from mild to severe.

Those mildly affected may exhibit only slight delays in language and greater challenges with social interactions. Others may have above-average verbal, memory or spatial skills but find it difficult to be imaginative or join in any game with their friends.

Those more severely affected may need greater assistance in handling day-to-day activities like crossing the street or making a purchase.

Misconceptions

Contrary to popular misconceptions, many children and adults with autism make eye contact, show affection, smile and laugh and show a variety of other emotions, but in varying degrees.

Many children with autism can develop good functional language and others develop some type of communication skills, such as sign language or use of pictures.

"Children with autism have normal life spans and although they do not 'out-grow' autism, their symptoms may lessen over time and as they receive treatment," Sicam said.



While understanding of autism has grown tremendously since it was first described by Dr. Leo Kanner in 1943, its cause is still unknown.

Various hypothesis abound, with genetic as the most probable cause. Others say it is caused by infections (like congenital rubella) while some believe it is from immunizations.

Experts who spoke during the forum stressed that it is important to understand that children with autism can learn and

function productively and show gains with appropriate education and treatment.

There are many ways of treating autism (although some are not yet proven effective). The most well substantiated way of treating autism is through applied behavioral analysis, which focuses on teaching small, measurable units of behavior systematically.

Other treatments include speech therapy, sensory motor integration, relaxation training and medications.

Authors retract study linking vaccine, autism

PARIS—Ten doctors who co-authored a controversial study suggesting a possible link between autism and the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine have issued a retraction last week.

They admitted they did not have enough evidence to make this interpretation and had underestimated the storm it would cause.

"No causal link was established between MMR vaccine and autism as the data were insufficient," they said in their retraction, published by the medical weekly *The Lancet*, where the study appeared in 1998.

They said their raising of the possibility of such a link had major implications for public health and they felt it was now time for them to formally retract the interpretation of the study findings.

There were 13 study authors. One could not be reached, and two others, including the lead author, Andrew Wakefield, did not join the retraction.

The study had the effect of a bombshell in Britain, prompting many parents not to vaccinate their child, thus placing the infant at risk from those diseases.

On Feb. 21, *The Lancet* distanced itself from the 1998 research, saying it had not been aware of a possible conflict of interest. At the time, Wakefield had been conducting research on behalf of parents of children who had fallen ill following MMR vaccination. **AFP**

Improving the human machine

LAST WEEKEND, a Chinese man was found dead in an Internet café after playing his favorite computer game nonstop for 20 hours. According to news reports, employees of the Sichuan-based café said the man was known to play the game, fittingly called "Saga," 10 hours a day.

As none of the reports provided any further details, I was left to assume that the man kept playing well past closing time, was locked in the café overnight, and was already dead when the café owners returned the next day.

Gamers have died before from spending too much time online. In recent years, there have been news stories of South Korean gamers confusing real life and their online personas, leading to theft, and even murder. Counseling centers for Internet addiction and prevention have been set up in an attempt to wean gamers away from their computers and toward more normal activities.

Addiction to games

I am astonished by these gamers' addiction because I've never met anyone willing to die for a game. When I was in college, half of my dorm mates would disappear into their rooms after dinner and spend hours playing either *Doom* or *Quake* against each other.

I've tried playing a few games myself, but found myself sticking to *The Sims* instead of *Baldur's Gate* because: 1) much as I like being a chaotic evil thief who saves people instead of picking their pockets, I tend to yell at the computer screen instead of controlling my character's actions; and, 2) in *The Sims*, no one dies unless you get them the guinea pig for a pet.

Researchers at the Laboratory-Directed Research section of Sandia Na-

DISCOVER



Massie Santos Ballon

tional Laboratories in the United States have been using computer games to create a personal monitoring system called Mentor-PAL (Personal Assistance Link).

According to the website for the Advanced Concepts Group of Sandia, under which the laboratory-directed research section falls, Mentor-PAL is a HuMachine system "that will enable human teams to operate at consistently superior levels of performance."

"This architecture is grounded in the real-time monitoring, analysis, synthesis and feedback of neurological, physiological, somatic, video and audio data of human subjects engaged in a group activity. Trends and shifts in neurophysiological measures as well as group effectiveness will be tracked and used for producing positive feedback, either automatically to individual group members or to a group leader."

Recognizing stress signals

In trial runs of the Mentor-PAL system, people played an online computer game as a team while sitting next to each other. Each player faced two computer screens—one displaying the game and one with the Mentor-PAL monitoring information that allowed them to track how the other players were faring.

By recognizing signs of stress in each other's behavior early on, the entire

team was able to play the game longer and work better with each other.

Monitoring office meetings

Take that scenario and imagine instead that you are in an office meeting and everyone is wearing wires that allow a computer to monitor your and your officemates' heart rates, blood pressures, facial expressions and movements.

The person in charge of the meeting can use the Mentor-PAL system to make sure nobody is being ignored, people aren't monopolizing the discussion, and the discussion isn't veering from the topic.

By monitoring people's expressions of boredom or frustration and increased heart rates as discussions heat up, the facilitator can ensure that no one leaves the meeting feeling that time was wasted.

It's a nice idea, but its success depends on whether or not people will feel that the wires are invading their privacy. Do I want the computer to tell my boss that although my face expresses interest and enthusiasm so that I can get a promotion, I am actually completely against his new project?

Game creators have been working toward creating the ultimate interactive computer game, something that makes the player live the adventure of the game and even talk out loud to the characters.

The Mentor-PAL system could help produce the technology to create such an experience, maybe even leading toward games where the players' reactions influence the events in the game itself.

However, knowing that there are already people out there who can't walk away from a game, that may not be such a good idea. If you'll excuse me, I think I'll go get some fresh air now.

Innovations of 2003

LAST December, during the Search for Outstanding R&D Awards sponsored by the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology Research and Development (PCASTRD), three projects were deemed the most promising commercially. I acknowledge PCASTRD writer Framelia Anonas, who sent the facts below.

A project on coating technology, dubbed "Development of a sheet plasma negative ion source," won the grand prize of P200,000.

Headed by Dr. Henry Ramos of the National Institute of Physics (NIP), University of the Philippines-Diliman, the project developed a device that uses micro-thin layers of sheet plasma to coat metals with titanium nitride, which glows when hit by light.

But the real beauty of this coating is its capacity to extend the metal's cutting life three to five times longer.

Industries, such as semiconductors, manufacturing and metal industries, that use cutting, drilling and molding tools, spend as much as \$300,000 a year just for tool coating. In 1999 alone, coating was an \$850-million market with a growth rate that doubles annually.

With this new technology on our local shores, industries can expect to reduce to a mere fraction the high cost of coating their tools.

Seeds and nuts

A project on nut and seed oils, dubbed "Lipid molecular species and fractions of the oil from local seeds and nuts and their potential applications," won the second prize of P150,000.

Led by Dr. Laura Pham of the National Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology (Biotech) of UP Los Baños, the re-

searchers investigated the possible nutraceutical, medical and pharmaceutical uses of common seeds and nuts. This pioneering project also aims to increase the productivity of our local *pili*, *lumbang*, *bunga de tsina*, *MacArthur palm*, *cashew*, *okra* and *talisyay*, all abundant and readily available in most parts of the country.

A project to improve failure detection, dubbed "Multidimensional microscopy of defects in integrated circuits,"

garnered the third prize of P100,000.

Led by Dr. Caesar Saloma, (again from NIP-UPD), the project developed a new method that produces high-quality images of damaged semiconductor sites by combining two imaging techniques with the use of a cheaper laser light source. With comparable accuracy at a lower price, the technique will hopefully lead to lower production cost of integrated circuits and prevent wastage losses in semiconductor industries.

Lead agency

As the country's lead agency tasked to develop the national research systems for advanced sciences and technologies, PCASTRD established these biennial awards, which have given rise to a number of valuable projects, such as a PC-based switch with features designed for small and medium-sized corporations, mannanase-treated and energy-packed copra meal for broilers, and advanced high critical temperature fabrication techniques.

For more information on PCASTRD and its programs and services, visit www.pcstrd.dost.gov.ph or e-mail pcstrd@dost.gov.ph. PCASTRD can be reached at Room 100, DOST Bldg., Bicutan, Taguig, Metro Manila, Tel. Nos. 837-7516, 837-7522, or 837-2071 locals 2100 to 2109.

EUREKA!



Queen N. Lee-Chua

Super pill helps people quit smoking and lose weight

NEW ORLEANS—A new pill in the final stages of testing shows promise in attacking two of humanity's biggest killers by helping people quit smoking and lose weight at the same time.

The drug, which could be available in a year or two, works through an entirely new approach: by blocking the same primeval circuitry in the brain that gives pot-smokers the munchies.

Two reports on the drug, called rimonabant, were released in New Orleans during a meeting of the American College of Cardiology. The research was financed by the drug's developer, Sanofi-Synthelabo, which plans to seek US approval to sell it under the brand *Acomplia* after more studies are completed next year.

One study found the drug helped people drop nine kilograms (20 pounds) in a year,

while the other concluded it doubled smokers' success at quitting, at least in the short run.

Blocks signals

The drug belongs to a class of medicines that block the so-called endocannabinoid system.

Marijuana makes people ravenous by stimulating this circuitry. The same biological machinery serves crucial everyday purposes by helping the brain regulate hunger and probably other urges, including alcohol craving.

Overeating and smoking can overstimulate this system, which in turn propels them to eat and smoke more.

By temporarily blocking the body's ability to receive these signals, experts believe they can return the system's working to normal.

In the larger of the two studies, Dr. Jean-Pierre Despres of Laval

University in Quebec City enrolled 1,036 overweight volunteers, all with big potbellies that put them at especially high risk of heart problems. They were urged to cut 600 calories a day and randomly given either rimonabant or dummy pills.

After a year, those who got the higher of two doses of rimonabant had lost an average of nine kilograms (20 pounds) and trimmed 7.6 centimeters (three inches) from their waistlines.

Nearly half of them took off 10 percent of their body weight.

By comparison, those on placebo lost just 2.25 kilograms (five pounds).

Those getting rimonabant improved in other ways, too. Their levels of HDL, the protective good cholesterol, rose 23 percent, while their triglycerides fell 15 percent.

Despres said people taking the drug felt less hungry. In an earlier

phase of the research, he could tell which volunteers were on the medicine by watching who passed up chocolate cake at the buffet table.

28% of smokers quit

The smoking study led Dr. Robert Anthenelli of the University of Cincinnati tested the drug for 10 weeks on 787 pack-a-day smokers who wanted to quit but could not. A longer follow-up will see how well they stay off, but in the short run, 28 percent shunned cigarettes for at least a month, compared with 16 percent on dummy pills.

Especially important, Anthenelli said, is that those on the drug gained little or no weight, and a third of the successful quitters actually took off weight at the same time. Ordinarily, smokers gain three to 4.5 kilograms (six to 10 pounds) when they quit. **AP**



SCIENCE/HEALTH



By Tessa R. Salazar

CHILDREN who take up music lessons have better verbal memory skills, perform better on puzzle-solving tests, and even score higher on math tests. Experts say these children also have improved motor skills, hand-eye coordination and overall physical coordination. They also have increased attention span, concentration and long- and short-term memory.

Music has also been found helpful in promoting a child's imagination, self-expression and in building confidence. Children also become more cooperative.

Research shows that certain areas of the brains of those who began receiving musical instructions in early childhood were between five and 15 percent larger than people who had no or little musical training.

Music is also regenerative. According to studies, music therapy sessions for hospital patients not only help reduce anxiety, pain, blood pressure and respiratory rate, but also promote the rapid development of new white blood cells necessary for healing.

Music and movement programs also help children with mental and developmental illnesses to successfully interact with other kids.

Kindermusik

On the suggestion of her family pediatrician, Jeannie H. Castillo searched for a music and movement program in the United States

that would be most stimulating for her then 2-year-old son. After undergoing a long application, screening and training process to become a licensed educator, Castillo, who was educated in Loyola University of Chicago, put up her own program, "Kindermusik with Teacher Jeannie." Sessions are currently offered at the Greenhills Learning Center in San Juan and at the Britesparks International School in White Plains, Quezon City.

There are classes for newborns to 1½-year-old kids, 1½- to 3-year-old children, 3- to 5-year-old and 5- to 7-year-old kids.

The school has opened a world of learning to children through music, and in the process, children become better learners, says Castillo.

"Babies and young children must be able to move their bodies and explore movements. This strengthens the neural connections in their brain," she adds.

Castillo's school now has 40 families (with some families enrolling more than one child), and about 20 percent of the students have special needs. Her youngest student is 2 months old.

Various movements

Castillo quotes Kindermusik proponent Stuart J. Schelen, department head of Recreation, Parks and Tourism of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, saying the joy of music and of movement, touch, listening and socialization are important for children.

Music and movement, Castillo says, help children learn about space, velocities and heights, and forward and backward motions. They also develop literacy, imaginative and expressive skills.

"Children learn and experience move-

ments like swooping, prancing, waddling and wiggling, melting and creeping and all other things," she says.

The school uses lyric charts that students learn by singing together. Singing and dancing expose children to sequencing and patterns so they are able to understand how things are broken up into sequences. This prepares them for skills they need in school and helps them develop their memory.

Parents' participation

Castillo says parents are encouraged to be active in their child's development.

In dance activities, for example, parents are encouraged to gently move their babies up and down and around. That way, Castillo says, parents help develop the child's eye, neck and back muscles and the students learn how to balance themselves.

Parents are also asked to massage their infants, which stimulates nerve growth in the child's brain, helping them grow at a healthier rate. The activity teaches parents and children the importance of movement in space.

US speech-language pathologist Dan De Joy, who was quoted in the Kindermusik program, says playing with objects encourages a baby to make sounds and words and helps the baby anticipate outcomes, which are central to conversational development and language acquisition.

Castillo says research even show that a baby still in its mother's womb can already recognize sounds, particularly the voices of his/her parents and the mother's heartbeat. The heartbeat is actually the first rhythm a child will encounter in life, and the sound is soothing to him.

ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

Relay for Life: 18-hour gathering on cancerBy Cora Lucas
Contributor

CANCER never sleeps. In the Philippines, casualties of the killer disease increase by 10,000 every 10 years, with majority of cases diagnosed at advanced stages.

But it would be myopic to talk about cancer only in terms of mortality rates or stop-gap measures. Visiting representatives of the American Cancer Society drove home this point as they urged Filipinos to take after their group's highly successful fund-raising activity to promote cancer awareness.

As a result of its meeting with its American counterpart last November, the Philippine Cancer Society has made a commitment to increase its efforts in the fight against cancer. Its big move: to mobilize communities across the country for its own version of America's Relay for Life.

Relay for Life is an overnight event where participants camp out and take turns running, jogging or walking around a track. Participating teams are asked to raise a minimum amount from donors and sponsors before the big event and the money used for the battle against cancer.

The project has been described as "the largest cancer control event in the world," raising over \$1 billion since 1985.

The project started through the initiative of one man, colorectal surgeon Dr. Gordy Klatt, who in May 1985 began a 24-hour walk-run around a track in Tacoma, Washington. He finished 83 miles and raised \$27,000 to support the American Cancer Society.

The following year, 220 supporters followed suit, giving birth to the Relay for Life. The idea eventually caught on and began to spread in other communities.

Dubbed "A celebration for life, a memorial for those who passed away," Relay for Life is now held every year in many countries, including Australia, Canada, Great



ANTHONY MISTADES

Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Marshall Islands and Singapore.

Philippine run

The local Relay for Life will be held in October at the Ultra track oval where volunteers will walk or run laps symbolic of their commitment to fight cancer. The event will bring together cancer victims, survivors, relatives, medical practitioners and supporters.

The 18-hour overnight camp-out will have cancer survivors giving inspirational talks and supporters holding educational and entertainment activities like contests, exhibits, music and dance.

Highlighting the event is a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of people who have lost their lives to cancer.

The goal of the event is to raise P10 million to P20 million to support the cancer research, education activities and services of the PCS and its partner groups.

Behind the local Relay For Life are business and community leaders and celebrity cancer survivors who will lead in gathering support through volunteer work, donations and sponsorships.

The event, which will be formally launched in April, welcomes volunteers who may register their teams with the Philippine Cancer Society at 310 San Rafael St., San Miguel, Manila. For inquiries, call 733-3485.

Series No. 3

Treatment options for Erectile Dysfunction

Males who have Erectile Dysfunction (ED) need not lose hope because there are treatments available for ED. Treatment, however, should come only after a thorough discussion of each option between the patient and the doctor and, preferably, with the patient's partner. The patient and the partner must be well informed about all the therapeutic options, including their effectiveness, possible complications and costs.

Treatments include oral medication, topical and intraurethral agents, injection therapy, vacuum devices and penile prostheses. Among all the treatment approaches for ED, it is widely believed that oral medication would be the most desirable and acceptable to patients.

There are three prescription medicines for ED available in the market today. All three drugs act on an enzyme that helps prompt and maintain erection by relaxing muscles in the penis and blood vessels. All these drugs work the same way, by relaxing smooth-muscle cells, primarily in the penis. They do not initiate erection but enhance blood flow in response to sexual stimulation. However, the duration and onset of the drug action is different with each pill. The most common reported side effects of these drugs are headache, indigestion, flushing, muscle ache, and stuffy or runny nose. All these drugs are contraindicated in patients taking nitrates for heart disease. Nitrates are substances that slow or lower blood pressure.

Prior to the approval by drug authorities and regulatory agencies of the three oral medications, injection therapy was the most effective treatment available for ED. A drug is injected at the base of the penis about 20 minutes before intercourse. The drug works by expanding arteries

and relaxing muscle tissue. Blood flow then increases into the erection chambers of the penis, the *corpora cavernosa*, helping to cause an erection.

Topical/intraurethral agents contain prostaglandin cream that is applied into the opening of the urethra just before intercourse.

The cream is a vasodilator, meaning it causes blood vessels to widen, encouraging flow into the penis.

The use of a vacuum device involves the placing of a tube over the head of the penis. Once activated, the tube creates a vacuum that enables blood to flow in, prompting an erection. A rubber ring is then put over the base of the penis to help maintain an erection.

There are treatments available for Erectile Dysfunction. Treatment should come only after thorough discussion with the doctor.

A prosthetic device is a plastic device surgically implanted inside the penis so the penis can be made rigid. With a prosthesis in place, a man can create an erection whenever he wishes.

Other treatment options include psychotherapy and behavioral therapy. Patients

who refuse medical and surgical options may be helped by these approaches. It is important that the sexual partner gets involved in improving the outcome of the therapy. Psychotherapy and behavioral therapy have been reported to relieve depression and anxiety as well as to improve sexual function.

Males who feel they have symptoms suggestive of erectile dysfunction are advised to see a doctor or a health professional for proper diagnosis and appropriate treatment. (Next week, *Personal and psychological costs of Erectile Dysfunction.*)

ANSWERS THAT MATTER.



ANTHONY MISTADES

Examining the highs, lows of clinical trials

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

NEW ORLEANS—Clinical trials are means by which researchers are able to provide new information on how medical problems can be better treated in actual clinical settings in humans, not with mice or other experimental animals.

When Dr. Peter Sleight delivered his lecture, "The Pleasures and Problems of Clinical Trials," during the ongoing American College of Cardiology meeting here, he spoke with the authority of experience.

Some 25 years ago, Dr. Sleight and his colleagues launched one of cardiology's first large multicenter trials, the International Study of Infarct Survival (ISIS). Since then, he has continued to play a central role in rigorous, well-planned research that now defines cardiovascular medicine. I had the privilege to lecture in and co-chair with him a symposium in Hong Kong two years ago and his insights not only mesmerized the audience but also inspired them to take active parts in ongoing international trials.

Enormous pleasure

The pleasures of clinical trials have been many, said Dr. Sleight, a professor emeritus of cardiovascular medicine at John Radcliffe Hospital, University of Oxford, UK. Among them are the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge clinical research, the camaraderie between team members and the satisfaction of working for the advancement of medicine and healthcare.

"There's enormous pleasure in doing clinical trials," Dr. Sleight said. "People really feel that they're doing something positive. It's a tremendous asset, that sort of attitude."

He must now be in his 70s, but the passion is still there, which reminds me of Ramon Abarquez, a professor emeritus at the University of the Philippines College of Medicine, who some two decades ago initiated me into the exciting field of clinical research.

Funding problem

Research as a profession and full-time vocation is gratifying in first-world countries like the United States where funding is not a problem, but it can be quite discouraging in countries like the Philippines where funding may come like rain in the desert. As a consequence, it's difficult to keep together a good team of researchers, statisticians and

database programmers. Local researchers have to struggle to get a continuous source of money to pay their staff's salaries.

The inevitable tendency is to turn to pharmaceutical companies for funding, and when researchers do this, it can undercut, or at least raise questions about, the reliability and independence of their research findings.

To avoid this, Dr. Sleight proposes a core governmental funding in each country for research teams proficient at conducting large trials.

I hope our local Department of Science and Technology would take note of this.

"It is important to keep an arm's length from (the pharmaceutical) industry. Their motives and yours are not always the same," Dr. Sleight said.

Fraudulent research

He added that fraud is a potentially devastating problem in clinical trials. Although it is uncommon, fraud appears to be increasing in the age of computer databases, making it easier to manipulate research results without leaving a trace. He recommended that statistical methods that can uncover questionable results be used routinely.

In addition, each research institution must have a recognized fair procedure for reporting and investigating fraud. There are usually research and ethics committees in research institutions aside from an independent data safety monitoring board to oversee the conduct of clinical trials and other researches in their respective institutions.

Potential conflicts of interest of the researchers, which might cause what some people call "commercialization of research discoveries," are also brought out in the open.

"The first thing is to be incredibly vigilant. You have to be highly suspicious of anybody who seems overproductive, particularly [with] brilliant ideas," Dr. Sleight said.

"There needs to be independent people who can say, 'Hold on. Let's look at this from the patient's point of view and society's point of view, and let's be a little more cautious,'" he added.

Such insights can only come from someone like Professor Sleight who has seen the highs and lows of clinical trials. And it's no wonder that Professor Abarquez should express the same sentiments, with his dream that Filipino researchers be given a chance to swing the bat on the giant mound of international research.



Adolescents target of new reproductive health campaign

By Charles E. Buban

ADOLESCENTS, or those between 10 and 19 years, account for almost 20 percent of the country's total population. They belong to a vital segment of the society whose decisions can impact greatly on the country's future.

Sadly, this age group faces so many challenges—lack of access to education, vulnerability to illness and infections including HIV/AIDS, inability to establish a secure livelihood, violence and early pregnancy—that led them to risky behaviors.

In fact, health authorities have cautioned that there is a growing number of unwanted pregnancies among young girls in the country.

A study by the Department of Health reveals that one in 10 adolescent girls has already given birth.

"We must do something to help. We must empower the youth with facts and services

needed to make informed decisions that are best for them," said Dr. Rosendo Roque, president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.

Education campaign

Together with pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines, POGS is spearheading an education campaign for teenagers dubbed Adolescent Health Issues and Perspective.

"This campaign will focus on physical, mental and emotional well-being of adolescents, including reproductive health issues like unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and all forms of sexual violence and coercion," Roque said.

He said they also hope to teach about the burden of unplanned pregnancy and STDs.

"There will be campus lecture tours wherein we will be providing counsel on sexual health and development, fertility awareness and consequences of sexual behavior, among others," said Roque.

Sanofi-Synthelabo, for its part, will provide the venue for POGS.



Kristine B. Nograles, M.D., DPDS*

Photoaging and Sun Protection

Getting sunburned after a day in the beach is probably the best-known side effect of prolonged sun exposure. What most people don't know is that cumulative unprotected exposure to the sun can be as harmful or even more damaging to the skin.

Photoaging, photodamage and dermatoheliosis are terms interchangeably used to describe the appearance of the skin after repeated sun exposure. The affected areas are typically, but not exclusively, the face, neck, V-area of the chest, arms and hands. These skin parts exhibit sagging, fine and coarse wrinkling, roughening, and uneven pigmentation.

While fairer-skinned individuals have more pronounced changes, brown-skinned people are not spared. Even more alarming is the compelling evidence that link ultraviolet radiation from the sun with the incidence of skin cancers, making this more than just an aesthetic concern.

There are a multitude of sun protective creams, sprays and lotions that are commercially available. However, only the use of high sun protection factor products (SPF 15 and 30) helps to protect the skin against sunburn, photoaging and the potential problem of skin cancer.

The use of these products should be a daily regimen and not only when prolonged sun exposure is expected, like during the hot summer months. As daily sun exposure is unavoidable, it is important to have sun protection always.

It is also very important to choose a sunscreen that protects against both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Check your favorite sunblock for ingredients like cinnamates, salicylates, para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) and benzophenones, which protect against UVB; and avobenzone (Parsol 1789) and benzophenones which act against UVA. Titanium dioxide and zinc oxide also provide good blockage against both kinds of harmful radiation.

There are non-classical sunscreens, like the antioxidants Vitamin C and E, which are believed to help attenuate sun damage. While they have no intrinsic ultraviolet absorptive capacity, they help protect the skin once ultraviolet radiation has penetrated the skin.

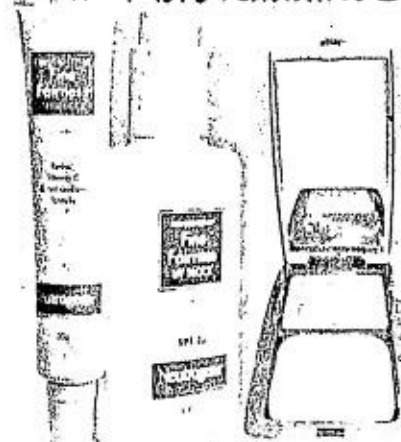
It is never too late to start protecting your skin from the bad effects of the sun. Most dermatologists recommend these three steps:

1. Avoid sunlight between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. At these times, the intensity of ultraviolet radiation is the harshest.
2. Use protective gear like wide-brimmed hats and umbrellas.
3. Daily application of sunscreens with UVB and UVA absorbing chemicals with sun-protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, and preferably 30. For best protection, this should be applied at least 30 minutes before exposing the skin to the sun.

Lastly, it is always recommended that you visit your board-accredited dermatologist for a complete skin check-up.

(Dr. Nograles is a diplomate of the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) and a member of the Skinhelp Committee of the PDS.)

The Secret to Fairer, More Radiant Skin



Sun exposure results in photodamage which comes in the form of dark brown spots, blotching, uneven skin tone, and even premature wrinkles.

What many people don't know is that photodamage is not just a result of direct exposure from the sun (UVB) causing sunburn, but can be a result of indirect sun exposure (UVA) that penetrates deeper into the skin, damaging collagen and elastin fibers that keep skin firm and elastic.

While the effect may not be immediate, this surfaces later on in life. UVA rays can penetrate through windows, therefore you may be exposed to the harmful rays of the sun even if indoors.

To keep your skin looking fair, you need to protect yourself everyday from the harmful rays of the sun (both direct and indirect), and use a smart whitening system that effectively works on delivering more radiant skin.

Neutrogena, a trusted name in dermatologic care, introduces a Fine Fairness Regimen that includes Fine Fairness UV Block SPF 30, Fine Fairness UV Compact Powder and Fine Fairness Essence.

Start everyday with Neutrogena Fine Fairness UV Block SPF30, an effective sunblock and moisturizer in one that provides UVA, UVB, and IR protection. It also contains Vitamin E and Pro-Vitamin B5 that soothes, moisturizes, and softens skin.

Neutrogena Fine Fairness UV Compact Powder, applied any time during the day, blends evenly with skin to hide imperfections for beautifully natural-looking coverage. It contains Vitamin C and licorice extract, plus sunscreens to help care for skin against harmful UV rays and prevent the formation of sunspots.

Neutrogena Fine Fairness Essence, an intensive whitening treatment contains Retinol (pure Vitamin A), Vitamin C and anti-oxidants. Best applied at night, this breakthrough formula exhibits a "smart" whitening action, working harder on dark spots where more whitening is needed and less on the unblemished areas for more even-toned, fair skin.

This patented formula enhances cell renewal for more radiant skin, and helps reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.

Try this Fine Fairness Regimen and see visible results of fairer, more radiant skin.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

White spots on tooth

IF THE WHITE spots on my tooth means that my tooth lacks calcium, will drinking milk and taking calcium tablets make the spots disappear?

Unfortunately all calcium formation takes place before 12 years of age so if you are over 12, your calcium and milk intake will only go to your bones.

White spots are usually located on the enamel portion of the tooth. If you want this cosmetic problem treated, you can have the defective enamel removed and replaced with a filling that matches the color of your tooth.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

Virgin coconut oil nature's blessing

VIRGIN coconut oil has long been used by our grandparents to soothe tired muscles and heal certain ailments. And the practice is not exclusive to the Philippines. Ayurvedic Indian medicine has likewise used it as a treatment for malabsorption.

What does coconut oil contain that gives it such "miraculous" properties? Like belief that you couldn't quite explain, our forebears can only attest that it works. Recent studies, however, are beginning to validate their claims.

"Medical research has shown that it boosts the immune system. Coconut oil, specifically virgin coconut oil, is a good source of lauric acid, which promotes health and is an adjunct treatment to viral diseases," says Julie Figueroa, president of Nature's Blessings Virgin Coconut Oil, which is considered as the best in the market.

The miracle oil

Dubbed the "miracle oil" by Dr. Bruce Fife, ND, coconut oil is said to contain a unique form of saturated fat that helps prevent heart disease, stroke and hardening of the arteries. "Asian and Polynesian people who rely on coconut and coconut oil as part of their daily diet have the lowest heart disease rates in the world," writes Dr. Fife in *A Grain of Salt*.

Fife explains that there are many different types of saturated fat acid and each has a different effect on the body. The one found in coconut oil is unlike the fat found in meat or vegetable fats. It is identical to a special group of fats found in human breast milk called medium fatty acids (MCFA). These special fatty acids have been shown to stimulate the

metabolism, improve digestion, strengthen the immune system, and protect against bacterial, viral and fungal infections as well as protect the heart and the arteries from conditions that cause heart disease, says Dr. Fife.

Nature's Blessings Coconut Oil was initially available only through doctors in the United States, according to Figueroa. It was in March this year that it was made available here in the Philippines through direct selling agents.

What makes Nature's Blessings different from the others is that it has a clear, white color and smells like fresh coconuts. "Since Nature's Blessings has its own organic coconut plantation, we are able to pick the nuts at exactly the right age. They are delivered on the same day to our processing plant, which is also located inside the plantation," Julie says.

Uses of virgin coconut oil

Like the way our forebears used it, virgin coconut oil may be used for cooking, body and massage revitalizer and hair conditioner. "It is ideal for cooking due to its ability to remain whole without losing its chemical composition despite exposure to high temperatures," Julie says. It is also ideal to use as salad oil for its natural and health benefits.

From boosting the immune system and protecting the heart to being a rich source of moisturizer and revitalizer for the skin and hair, virgin coconut oil has truly proven to be Nature's Blessing.

For more information about Nature's Blessings Virgin Coconut Oil, please visit www.naturesblessings.com.ph.

"With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to my son's college graduation!"

Heart attack survivor



Check with your doctor about the affordable statin*...

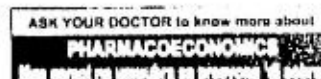
* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

Now for Life!

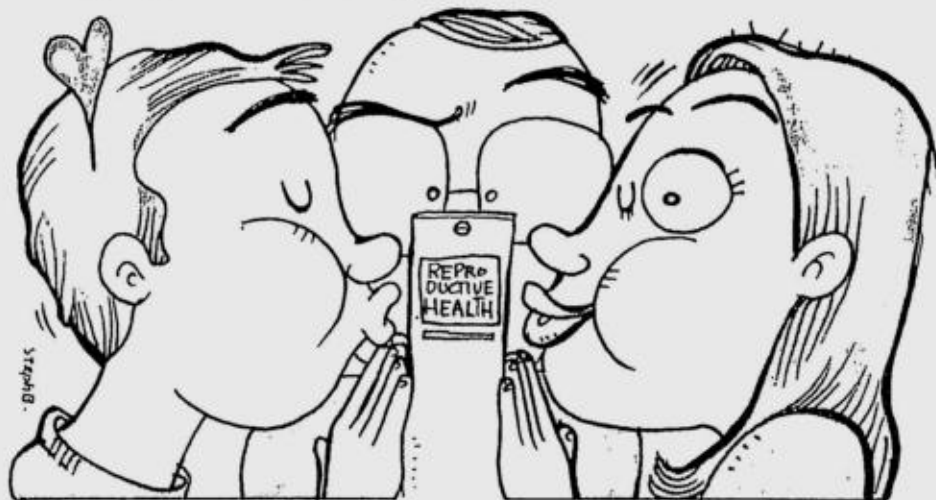
A public health service announcement from



A division of



BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Adolescents target of new reproductive health campaign

By Charles E. Buban

ADOLESCENTS, or those between 10 and 19 years, account for almost 20 percent of the country's total population. They belong to a vital segment of the society whose decisions can impact greatly on the country's future.

Sadly, this age group faces so many challenges—lack of access to education, vulnerability to illness and infections including HIV/AIDS, inability to establish a secure livelihood, violence and early pregnancy—that led them to risky behaviors.

In fact, health authorities have cautioned that there is a growing number of unwanted pregnancies among young girls in the country.

A study by the Department of Health reveals that one in 10 adolescent girls has already given birth.

"We must do something to help. We must empower the youth with facts and services

needed to make informed decisions that are best for them," said Dr. Rosendo Roque, president of the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society.

Education campaign

Together with pharmaceutical company Sanofi-Synthelabo Philippines, POGS is spearheading an education campaign for teenagers dubbed Adolescent Health Issues and Perspective.

"This campaign will focus on physical, mental and emotional well-being of adolescents, including reproductive health issues like unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion, sexually transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and all forms of sexual violence and coercion," Roque said.

He said they also hope to teach about the burden of unplanned pregnancy and STDs.

"There will be campus lecture tours wherein we will be providing counsel on sexual health and development, fertility awareness and consequences of sexual behavior, among others," said Roque.

Sanofi-Synthelabo, for its part, will provide the venue for POGS.



Kristine B. Nograles, M.D., DPDS*

Photoaging and Sun Protection

Getting sunburned after a day in the beach is probably the best-known side effect of prolonged sun exposure. What most people don't know is that cumulative unprotected exposure to the sun can be as harmful or even more damaging to the skin.

Photoaging, photodamage and dermatoheliosis are terms interchangeably used to describe the appearance of the skin after repeated sun exposure. The affected areas are typically, but not exclusively, the face, neck, V-area of the chest, arms and hands. These skin parts exhibit sagging, fine and coarse wrinkling, roughening, and uneven pigmentation.

While fairer-skinned individuals have more pronounced changes, brown-skinned people are not spared. Even more alarming is the compelling evidence that link ultraviolet radiation from the sun with the incidence of skin cancers, making this more than just an aesthetic concern.

There are a multitude of sun protective creams, sprays and lotions that are commercially available. However, only the use of high sun protection factor products (SPF 15 and 30) helps to protect the skin against sunburn, photoaging and the potential problem of skin cancer.

The use of these products should be a daily regimen and not only when prolonged sun exposure is expected, like during the hot summer months. As daily sun exposure is unavoidable, it is important to have sun protection always.

It is also very important to choose a sunscreen that protects against both ultraviolet A (UVA) and ultraviolet B (UVB) rays. Check your favorite sunblock for ingredients like cinnamates, salicylates, para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) and benzophenones, which protect against UVB; and avobenzone (Parsol 1789) and benzophenones which act against UVA. Titanium dioxide and zinc oxide also provide good blockage against both kinds of harmful radiation.

There are non-classical sunscreens, like the antioxidants Vitamin C and E, which are believed to help attenuate sun damage. While they have no intrinsic ultraviolet absorptive capacity, they help protect the skin once ultraviolet radiation has penetrated the skin.

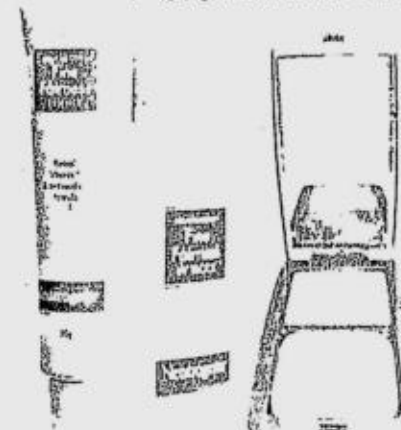
It is never too late to start protecting your skin from the bad effects of the sun. Most dermatologists recommend these three steps:

1. Avoid sunlight between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M. At these times, the intensity of ultraviolet radiation is the harshest.
2. Use protective gear like wide-brimmed hats and umbrellas.
3. Daily application of sunscreens with UVB and UVA absorbing chemicals with sun-protection factor (SPF) of at least 15, and preferably 30. For best protection, this should be applied at least 30 minutes before exposing the skin to the sun.

Lastly, it is always recommended that you visit your board-accredited dermatologist for a complete skin check-up.

(Dr. Nograles is a diplomate of the Philippine Dermatological Society (PDS) and a member of the Skinhelp Committee of the PDS.)

The Secret to Fairer, More Radiant Skin



Sun exposure results in photodamage which comes in the form of dark brown spots, blotching, uneven skin tone, and even premature wrinkles.

What many people don't know is that photodamage is not just a result of direct exposure from the sun (UVB) causing sunburn, but can be a result of indirect sun exposure (UVA) that penetrates deeper into the skin, damaging collagen and elastin fibers that keep skin firm and elastic.

While the effect may not be immediate, this surfaces later on in life. UVA rays can penetrate through windows, therefore you may be exposed to the harmful rays of the sun even if indoors.

To keep your skin looking fair, you need to protect yourself everyday from the harmful rays of the sun (both direct and indirect), and use a smart whitening system that effectively works on delivering more radiant skin.

Neutrogena, a trusted name in dermatologic care, introduces a Fine Fairness Regimen that includes Fine Fairness UV Block SPF 30, Fine Fairness UV Compact Powder and Fine Fairness Essence.

Start everyday with Neutrogena Fine Fairness UV Block SPF30, an effective sunblock and moisturizer in one that provides UVA, UVB, and IR protection. It also contains Vitamin E and Pro-Vitamin B5 that soothes, moisturizes, and softens skin.

Neutrogena Fine Fairness UV Compact Powder, applied any time during the day, blends evenly with skin to hide imperfections for beautifully natural-looking coverage. It contains Vitamin C and licorice extract, plus sunscreens to help care for skin against harmful UV rays and prevent the formation of sunspots.

Neutrogena Fine Fairness Essence, an intensive whitening treatment contains Retinol (pure Vitamin A), Vitamin C and anti-oxidants. Best applied at night, this breakthrough formula exhibits a "smart" whitening action, working harder on dark spots where more whitening is needed and less on the unblemished areas for more even-toned, fair skin.

This patented formula enhances cell renewal for more radiant skin, and helps reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles.

Try this Fine Fairness Regimen and see visible results of fairer, more radiant skin.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

White spots on tooth

IF THE WHITE spots on my tooth means that my tooth lacks calcium, will drinking milk and taking calcium tablets make the spots disappear?

Unfortunately all calcium formation takes place before 12 years of age so if you are over 12, your calcium and milk intake will only go to your bones.

White spots are usually located on the enamel portion of the tooth. If you want this cosmetic problem treated, you can have the defective enamel removed and replaced with a filling that matches the color of your tooth.

E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

Virgin coconut oil nature's blessing

VIRGIN coconut oil has long been used by our grandparents to soothe tired muscles and heal certain ailments. And the practice is not exclusive to the Philippines. Ayurvedic Indian medicine has likewise used it as a treatment for malabsorption.

What does coconut oil contain that gives it such "miraculous" properties? Like belief that you couldn't quite explain, our forebears can only attest that it works. Recent studies, however, are beginning to validate their claims.

"Medical research has shown that it boosts the immune system. Coconut oil, specifically virgin coconut oil, is a good source of lauric acid, which promotes health and is an adjunct treatment to viral diseases," says Julie Figueroa, president of Nature's Blessings Virgin Coconut oil, which is considered as the best in the market.

The miracle oil

Dubbed the "miracle oil" by Dr. Bruce Fife, ND, coconut oil is said to contain a unique form of saturated fat that helps prevent heart disease, stroke and hardening of the arteries. "Asian and Polynesian people who rely on coconut and coconut oil as part of their daily diet have the lowest heart disease rates in the world," writes Dr. Fife in A Grain of Salt.

Fife explains that there are many different types of saturated fat acid and each has a different effect on the body. The one found in coconut oil is unlike the fat found in meat or vegetable fats. It is identical to a special group of fats found in human breast milk called medium fatty acids (MCFAs). These special fatty acids have been shown to stimulate the

metabolism, improve digestion, strengthen the immune system, and protect against bacterial, viral and fungal infections as well as protect the heart and the arteries from conditions that cause heart disease, says Dr. Fife.

Nature's Blessings Coconut Oil was initially available only through doctors in the United States, according to Figueroa. It was in March this year that it was made available here in the Philippines through direct selling agents.

What makes Nature's Blessings different from the others is that it has a clear, white color and smells like fresh coconuts. "Since Nature's Blessings has its own organic coconut plantation, we are able to pick the nuts at exactly the right age. They are delivered on the same day to our processing plant, which is also located inside the plantation," Julie says.

Uses of virgin coconut oil

Like the way our forebears used it, virgin coconut oil may be used for cooking, body and massage revitalizer and hair conditioner. "It is ideal for cooking due to its ability to remain whole without losing its chemical composition despite exposure to high temperatures," Julie says. It is also ideal to use as salad oil for its natural and health benefits.

From boosting the immune system and protecting the heart to being a rich source of moisturizer and revitalizer for the skin and hair, virgin coconut oil has truly proven to be Nature's Blessing.

For more information about Nature's Blessings Virgin Coconut Oil, please visit www.naturesblessings.com.ph.

"With my anti-cholesterol statin*, I'm looking forward to my son's college graduation!"

Heart attack survivor

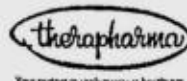


Check with your doctor about the affordable statin*

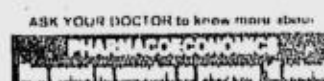
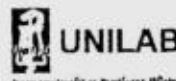
* This class of drug is approved for sale by BFAD as a prescription drug and should be bought only with a prescription.

Now for Life!

A public health service announcement from



A division of



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

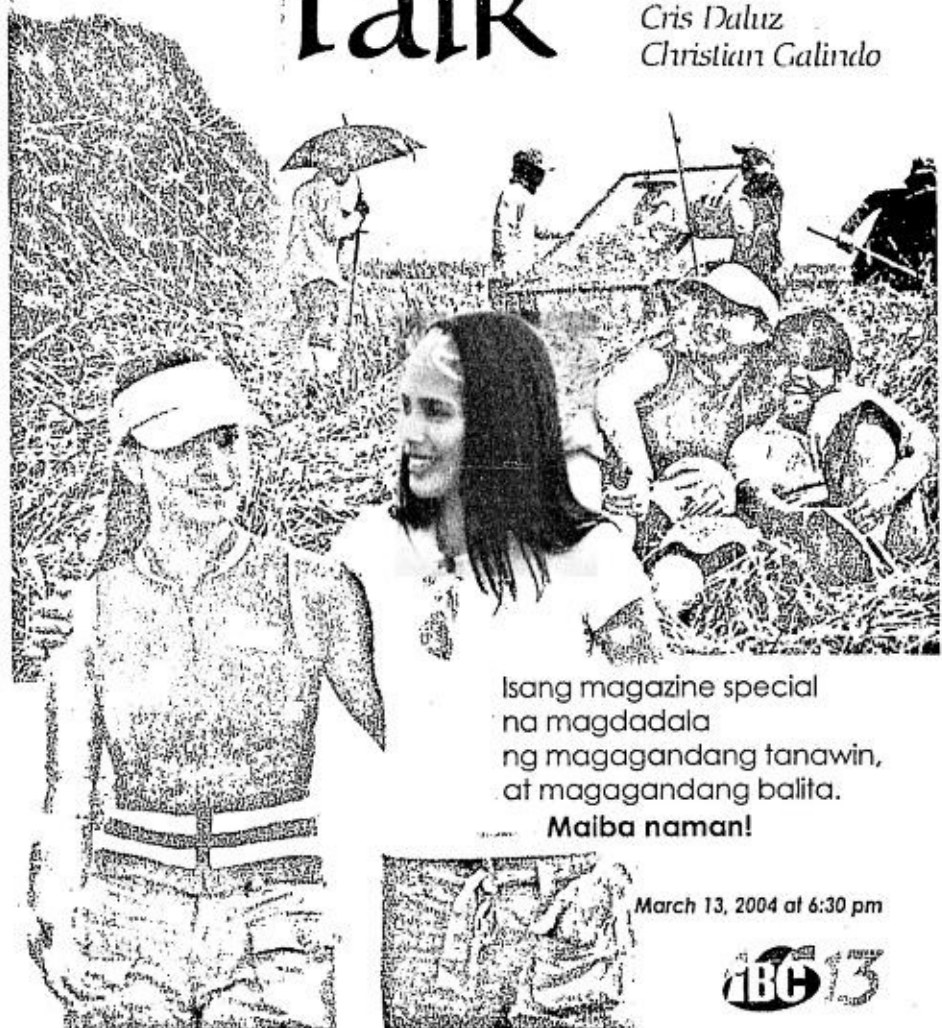
BUSINESS

Panoorin, beauty na brains pa!

Darling Talk

with hosts
Angel Aquino
Angel Locsin

Also
Cris Duluz
Christian Galindo



Isang magazine special
na magdadala
ng magagandang tanawin,
at magagandang balita.
Maiba naman!

March 13, 2004 at 6:30 pm



FARMERS' CHOICE

Ping tops Roco on agri list

By Christine Gaylican

A COALITION of small farmers and fishermen is now keeping a scorecard of the six presidential candidates—whether they are a boon or a bane to the neglected agriculture sector, according to the members.

Based on the initial discussions among members of the group Alyansa Agrikultura and two of the presidential candidates, Raul Roco was "disappointing," while Panfilo "Ping" Lacson was "impressive."

"We were disappointed with our initial meeting with Raul Roco," said Romeo Royondonan, executive director of Alyansa. "Although he has been saying that he is a son of a farmer, he could not articulate well what he intends to do for the Philippine agriculture sector."

In a press conference yesterday, Royondonan said that after they have discussed key agriculture issues with Roco, the former senator has drawn up an agenda that could affect some 10 million small farmers and fisherfolk nationwide.

Roco listed in his agenda plans to lift quantitative restrictions on rice importation, and to distribute the coco levy shares to the coconut farmers, according to Royondonan.

Although Ping Lacson has an agriculture agenda, the group is still closely watching him, said Royondonan, who is also president of the Philippine Peasant Institute.

"FPJ canceled his meeting with us

when he learned that we will raise different issues that are now hounding the agri sector," Royondonan said.

Alyansa has yet to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo, Eddie Villanueva and Eddie Gil.

"We were duped before by ousted President (Joseph) Estrada," said Coconut Industry Reform Movement Inc. executive director Joey Faustino. "He said he will return the coco levy shares to the farmers, but he ended up forging a deal with (Eduardo) 'Danding' Cojuangco."

Alyansa Agrikultura national coordinator Ernesto Ordoñez said that although they are not supporting or endorsing any of the presidential candidates, they would want them to carry a common agenda that would lift the agriculture sector.

Ordoñez said Alyansa is proposing six priority issues that include:

- Increase tariffs for products where there is no level playing field due to foreign subsidies in the next World Trade Organization meeting in Geneva;

- Maintain quantitative restrictions for rice beyond 2005 until support structures are in place;

- Give priority to small fishers for municipal waters to combat poverty;

- Ensure speedy allocation of the coco levy funds to the small coconut farmers.

Alyansa is now the largest coalition of farmers and fisherfolk. It is composed of 37 federations representing more than 1 million rural families.

ERC to resume Meralco rate hike hearing

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission yesterday said that it would resume hearing the Manila Electric Co.'s petition for a rate hike of 13.58 centavos per kilowatt-hour.

In an interview, ERC chair Rodolfo B. Albano Jr. said the five-member commission had not set a date on the resumption of the hearing, but that they expect to hold it within the month.

"I believe the Supreme Court has not stopped the ERC (on hearing Meralco's petition)," Albano said.

In January, the High Court stopped an ERC order that gave Meralco a provisional authority (PA) to raise its rates by 12 centavos per kWh starting that month.

The ERC granted the PA on Nov. 27 last year.

The provisional rate increase was expected to give the country's biggest electricity distributor this year P2 billion in additional revenue.

The ERC had said a provisional rate hike was reasonable, given Meralco's financial difficulties.

In 2002, the Supreme Court ordered the group to pay back P30 billion to customers for years of overcharging.

Ronnel W. Domingo

VVT-i

SENSE THE MOVEMENT
SENSE THE MOVEMENT

NEW COROLLA 2004 ALTIS

Time is motion and there's no standing still. You move ahead of the times by taking the lead in setting tomorrow's trends. Like the new Altis. A luxury sedan leading the pack in automotive design and engineering. You have to take its wheel to appreciate its responsive maneuverability. And drive it to thrill at the power of its technically advanced, high performance VVT-i engine. The new Altis. Own one to prove that you were never born a follower.



VVT-i engine dramatically improves driving performance and fuel efficiency



All-new, sleek 4-lamp multi-reflector headlights



New rear LED (light emitting diode) combination lamps



Power retractable side view mirrors



Stylish, new 6-spoke alloy wheels



The power driver's seat is 8-way adjustable for greater comfort.



Gate-type, automatic shift lever provides excellent operability.



Rear sunshade for passenger's comfort.



TOYOTA ALABANG, INC. Alabang-Zapote Rd. cor. Concha Cruz Drive 800-0801 to 37 / 802-1991 TOYOTA BACOLOD CITY, Gardenview Subdivision, Arana St., Bacolod City (034) 444-1811 to 13 TOYOTA BAGUIO CITY, Bokakan Road cor. Agula St., Baguio City (074) 447-0851 / (074) 300-3273 to 74 / (074) 300-4128 / 3825 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK, INC., LUSA cor. Vicente Ang & Gen. Evangelista Sts., Kalikasan City 366-8901 to 06 / 364-1547 to 50 / 364-4071 to 75 TOYOTA BALINTAWAK NORTH, 10101 (Palma De Los Santos Ave. (EDSA), Quezon City 921-7215 / 17 / 921-7216 / 18 / 921-7217 / 19 / 921-7218 / 20 / 921-7219 / 21 / 921-7220 / 22 / 921-7221 / 23 / 921-7224 / 24 / 921-7225 / 26 / 921-7227 / 28 / 921-7229 / 30 / 921-7231 / 32 / 921-7233 / 34 / 921-7235 / 36 / 921-7237 / 38 / 921-7239 / 40 / 921-7241 / 42 / 921-7243 / 44 / 921-7245 / 46 / 921-7247 / 48 / 921-7249 / 50 / 921-7251 / 52 / 921-7253 / 54 / 921-7255 / 56 / 921-7257 / 58 / 921-7259 / 60 / 921-7261 / 62 / 921-7263 / 64 / 921-7265 / 66 / 921-7267 / 68 / 921-7269 / 70 / 921-7271 / 72 / 921-7273 / 74 / 921-7275 / 76 / 921-7277 / 78 / 921-7279 / 80 / 921-7281 / 82 / 921-7283 / 84 / 921-7285 / 86 / 921-7287 / 88 / 921-7289 / 90 / 921-7291 / 92 / 921-7293 / 94 / 921-7295 / 96 / 921-7297 / 98 / 921-7299 / 100 TOYOTA CAGAYAN DE ORO, INC., Kin. 3 National Highway, Kawasigan, Cagayan de Oro City (08822) 735-770 / 791 / 846 / (088) 858-9994 (088) 858-7770 TOYOTA CEBU CITY, INC., 34 M. J. Cuenco St., Cebu City (032) 253-1161 TOYOTA CEBU-MANDAUE, Tabok, Mandaue City (032) 345-8670 TOYOTA COMMONWEALTH, Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City 952-1021 to 27 TOYOTA CUBAO, INC., 928 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City 911-0851 to 63 TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Diversion Road, Barangay San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan (075) 517-2026 to 28 / (075) 522-6771 / 6734 / 4773 TOYOTA DASMARIÑAS CAVITE, Salitran II, Agumalido Highway, Dasmariñas, Cavite (046) 850-2597 / (02) 529-8115 (trunk line) TOYOTA DAVAO CITY, INC., Km. 6 Lanang, Davao City (082) 234-0998 / (082) 234-2994 / (082) 234-8640 TOYOTA ILOILO CITY, INC., Gran Plaza Subd., Jaro, Iloilo City (033) 320-6115 to 19 TOYOTA MANILA BAY CORP., Roxas Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City 832-3408 to 10 / 832-3432 to 34 / 832-3384 / 832-3437 TOYOTA MARINA SERVICE STATION, Brig. Sio Nino Sumulong Highway cor. Toyota Ave., Marikina City 682-9701 to 03 TOYOTA METROPOLITAN MAKATI, INC., Ayala cor. Metropolitan Avenues, Makati City 897-3333 TOYOTA OTIS, INC., 1770 For M. Giron St., Paco, Manila 564-1811 to 20 TOYOTA PASONG TAMO, INC., 2292 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City 893-8084 TOYOTA QUEZON AVENUE, INC., 728 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City 712-5001 to 06 TOYOTA SHAW, INC., 411 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City 727-0201 / 717-0707 to 08 / 717-0738 to 40 / 717-2387 (telex) TOYOTA SHAW-ORTIGAS, 124 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., So. Uguig, Pasig City 671-9854 to 64 / 671-0160



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

A change of heart

Negative traits should be replaced by those that mirror one's beautiful self

By Marge C. Enriquez

Readers have been requesting more articles on self-transformation. Here is a continuation of the series based on the lectures of British life coach Denise Lawrence.

PERSONAL change can be daunting. It is like a turbulent plane ride, or a drive along Chino Roces Avenue these days with the exasperating detours and roadblocks due to the unending road repairs. To overcome the obstacles and reach the destination, one needs determination and courage.

Life strategist and lecturer Denise Lawrence says that, for change to be effective, one has to face one's demons—and so it's like opening the proverbial Pandora's box.

"Our stuff comes bubbling to the surface and our egos rally to strengthen our denial and stop the process. Breaking the denial is a big job," Lawrence says. "People and circumstances will come together to assault our denial and ego defense mechanisms."

The main hindrance to change, she stresses, is false pride, which blindfolds the conscience. "This blindness is such a powerful structure, invisible and fog-like in nature, that it has in us its power," she says. "We behave inappropriately without realizing it. If anyone is courageous enough to draw our attention to it, we retaliate with anger and vengeance, sometimes attacking the person while vigorously denying that we did anything wrong."

Lawrence says the challenge is to make an honest assessment of oneself. She defines transformation as a "change of heart, a change of attitude and a change of consciousness."

Why lie?

To illustrate, she says: "Take the case of lying, when we act as our own lawyers and plead not guilty. Can a person know that something is wrong, do it anyway, and yet not know he is doing it? When we are confronted, we vigorously deny we ever said (or did) something. We are convinced, and do our best to convince everyone else. Even in the face of all evidence, we deny what we did."

Lawrence attributes the habit of lying to early traumatic experiences when we devise ways of dealing with the pressures and chaos of the environment. Coping mechanisms, including lying, become conditioned reflexes and compel us to behave accordingly. Even when circumstances have improved, the habit usually has become so deeply etched in our souls that we react to the same situations in the old way.

Lawrence warns that society has been conditioned to base values on status, surface appearances and success rates. "We are severely affronted if someone suggests we are showing signs of aging. Which woman likes to be told she has wrinkles and is losing her looks? Hidden vestiges of vanity flare up and we react with anger. How do you feel when you, who used to consider yourself as the affluent majority, find you are no longer top dog? You become afraid. When you lose your position, prestige and

wealth? It hurts. Pride kicks in and you quickly create fine speeches to prevent people from seeing what is happening. The lying starts."

Deep personal change begins by recognizing the negative influences in our lives, or how these have been planted in our psyche, Lawrence says. Undoing these influences should be balanced with seeking good influences and adding these to our innate positive traits.

She explains: "The work involves remembering who we really are—the goodness, light, peace, love and happiness that we are all endowed with—and distinguishing them from the values absorbed through bad influences."

Rude awakening

There is a rude awakening when we realize that our sense of security had been based on a weak foundation of illusions. "How do you feel when you have reached your goals and now live by a certain set of values? You think you are just fine, you are in charge, you are the authority. Then suddenly everything about you is called into question. A new generation with new ways of thinking surrounds you. They challenge the validity of your old ways, the system that you have so carefully built your identity around. How do you feel when the earth moves under your feet?"

Meaningful change will occur only when we admit that, as much as we want to be loved by others, we also have to look into past actions and habits that have weakened us. We should realize that they have warped our sensibilities. We have to dismantle the complex ego defense structures that we have built around ourselves.

"Each negative character trait has to be renounced and replaced by a characteristic that is true to one's innate and beautiful self," says Lawrence. "Inner silence, opening one's self up to the love of the higher energy of the Supreme and accepting the friendship of positive people around us, melt the ice around our damaged heart. Then the true self can emerge like a beautiful rose after the storm."

A shoot with Jackie L

We wanted to do a real-people shoot for a private label, Mosaic, that not only specializes in unique sizing but also offers high quality craftsmanship that is truly Filipino.

To make the shoot credible, we requested the proprietor Anne Marie Saguil if she could ask women who wear Mosaic to be the sitters.

One was a bright student from Ateneo, the other was former First Daughter Jackie Ejercito-Lopez. There was no political agenda in choosing her as a model. We just wanted a personality who could give life to basic clothes. She's low-key and prefers to be a full-time mother to her three-year-old child. For this shoot, she brought her "security blanket," Jonathan Matti who also guarded her bijoux with his life.



PHOTOS BY DENISE WELDON • DIGITAL IMAGING BY MARK INDUCIL • MODEL JACKIE EJERCITO-LOPEZ

Kanebo
The Lifestyle Company

Rustan's

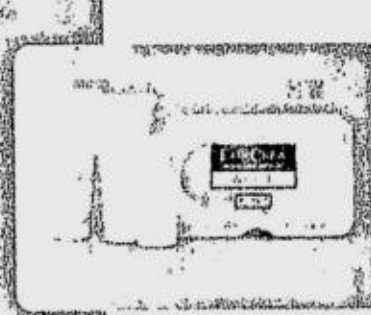
essences

invite you to the launching of the new
Blanchir Red Series Line



Kanebo BLANCHIR
WHITENING POWERCON DC

and the new
FairCrea Whitening Line



Any purchase of Kanebo products entitles you to a FREE FairCrea Starter Kit:

- FairCrea Whitening Cleansing
- FairCrea Whitening Melany Crasher
- FairCrea Whitening Daily Veil UV
- FairCrea Whitecare Pact UV

Whitening Creation

Join us for a Beauty Workshop with
Ms. Sayuri Isunashima, JAPANESE BEAUTY CONSULTANT

Rustan's Tower
March 12-14, 2004

Rustan's Makati
March 16-19, 2004

Essences Robinsons Place
March 31 to April 14, 2004

Sofia's choice

Dance is her life, not as a performer, but as a mover and shaker

AS THE curtain was about to rise for Steps Dance Studio's annual recital, founder and director Sofia Zobel-Elizalde sat calmly beside Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (a.k.a. Jaza) in the audience. The president and CEO of the family-owned Ayala Group was amazed.

"Wow!" exclaimed Jaza, noting what he considered a proof of leadership. "If things were not in order, you'd be screaming backstage. But the fact that you can sit and watch the show tells me that you're doing something right."

More than just encouraging words from Big Brother, it was a compliment from a business leader who runs one of the country's oldest and most respectable companies, and has been in the Forbes' list of financial successes.

Sofia is modest about her organizational skills. "It just happened naturally. From my first recital, I've always organized everything to a point where I can sit in the audience starting from opening night and enjoy the fruits of my work. I've never been backstage."

Steps Dance Studio turns 10 this year, and Sofia is celebrating its achievements. From a business viewpoint, the school has thrived despite the premium rates in studio rentals and tuition. She is slowly recovering her investment in one of the most beautiful studios in the country, even managing to pay herself every year.

Artistically, the school has been achieving its mission of turning out good dancers. Steps has developed a scholarship program for talented students who are financially underprivileged. Sofia has been apportioning parts of the school's income, as well as her personal resources, for the support of scholars.

Protegé Jason Ignacio, who got a scholarship with the Alvin Ailey Company, is now a member of the Martha Graham Company. He will soon join Walt Disney's production of "Tarzan." Sofia facilitated Jason's visas and permits and provided him with food and transportation allowances during his first year in New York.

Jason's brother Sydney is a member of the Philippine Ballet Theater (PBT). Other outstanding scholars are Lea Baduria, a PBT soloist, Jennifer Olayvar of Ballet Manila and Ryan Bautista of Ballet Philippines. Arnel Zulue-ta, who also started out in Steps, is a PBT apprentice.

Sofia's generosity is balanced with discipline. She sacks delinquent scholars who forgo free classes to polish their skills for "raket," a term for commercial endeavors.

"We are not only teaching technique, we also impart responsibility, discipline and focus," she maintains.

Sofia may not be running a billion-peso conglomerate like the Ayala Group. Yet, she projects leadership that's both innate, from her family; and observed, from her husband, Patxi Elizalde.

She has drawn admiration from her colleagues for her humility and honesty, which she inspires in her staff, and also for her talent in bringing out the best in others. She gives back the credit: "I have such a great team and I respect each and everyone of the teachers for their talent."

Raul Sauz, a pioneer faculty member, has diligently trained the ballet students who did corps de ballet work in BP's "Nutcracker." Liezl Laforteza, head of the contemporary division, along with husband James, has been working on the students that they may release their inhibitions. Josette Salang and Alice Sangco Ledesma lay the foundation of children's ballet training.

Recognizing Sauz's potential and dedication, Sofia has announced plans to help advance his career by sending him to Australia to become an examiner for the Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus. One of the perks is travel around the Asia-Pacific region to evaluate the examinees.

In a casual conversation, ÉLAN picked up some fine points about

leadership which Sofia has imbibed without conscious effort:

Leaders are glad to put others in front. "Always take other people's opinions into consideration. Don't try to do everything yourself. When the people with you are good at what they do, trust them completely. At Steps, we meet regularly. I get feedback from the staff and always ask how we can improve. By doing this, we become close as a team."

Compassion, as an ethic of professional responsibility, brings happiness. "After the summer recital, I give my teachers a token of thanks because they've worked very hard. My father (Jaime Zobel de Ayala, chair of Ayala Group) writes handwritten letters to them. Everyone feels dad is very special in their lives. It's nice to do something like that. I am surprised that many people never express their gratitude."

For the sake of quality, one has to be a tyrant to invalidate mediocrity. "When I saw (the re-staging of) 'Swan Lake,' it was so bad. Our girls were not strong enough then. I said I didn't care if they wanted to dance 'Swan Lake,' we were not going to mount a disaster! If we do something, we must do it well."

Following the family's philanthropic tradition, Sofia helps out in charities such as her mother



SOFIA ELIZALDE: I will help only those who, I feel, can make it on their own.

PHOTO BY DENISE WELDON

Beatriz Zobel Sr.'s projects for Elsie Gaches Village or the Catholic Women's Club.

She says: "My mother's advice is that it's very hard to support so many charities all at once because not all will flourish. Zero in on one, where you feel you are being most helpful."

Undoubtedly, dance is her life, not as performer, but as a mover and shaker: "I try to do everything I can to make people happy, and be inspired by what they are doing." Marge C. Enriquez

Steps Dance Studio, located at Karrivin Plaza, 2316 P. Tamo Extension, Makati City, will hold its summer workshop from March 31 to June 5. It ends with a dance recital at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Courses include ballet, acting for dancers, makeup for theater, improvisation and composition by Enrico Labayen and James Laforteza, Royal Academy of Dance Syllabus, modern, jazz, tap, musical theater and street dance. Call 757-2984 or 843-8472.

REVIEW

A Beautiful Life

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Kevyn Aucoin: A Beautiful Life
By Kerry Diamond
Creative Direction by Eric Sakas Atria Books 2003



"FOR THOSE like me who loved Kevyn the person, the heart now weeps as if made of water color. Earth has lost yet another light, but perhaps, he has joined the masters who paint our sunsets."—Tori Amos

and his website. I, for one, was deeply saddened by his demise. I had always adored his work and thought that he had the most profound views on every subject, from race and gender biases to gun control. And ironically, for someone who spent his life making women look beautiful, Kevyn always believed that true beauty came from within.

More than a year after his death, "Kevyn Aucoin: A Beautiful Life" pays tribute to his genius. In this sleek coffee table book put together by ex-boyfriend Eric Sakas, celebrities—Gwyneth Paltrow, Janet Jackson, Julia Roberts and Tina Turner among them—describe Kevyn in their own words, affectionately. Punctuated by countless photographs and tributes is the story of a boy whose refusal to give up in the face of obstacles led to unparalleled success beyond his wildest dreams.

Orphaned by his 16-year-old mother, Kevyn found a loving adoptive family. However, growing up gay in the Bible-belt south, where people were wary of anybody different, was difficult. Kevyn had to endure so much abuse and torment in school that he contemplated suicide at age 8. At 11, he started making up his sister as a form of escape. He would make her pose for photographs that he patterned after the pictures he saw in Vogue magazine. His other passion and talent was drawing, and his favorite subject was Barbara Streisand, whom he adored.

Eventually he moved to New York. His lucky break came when makeup artist Alberto Fava got sick, and he was called in as a last-minute replacement for a Vogue shoot with Steven Meisel and Meg Tilly. Of course his career took off and his prodigious talent was not lost on the models and celebrities who soon found themselves addicted to Kevyn's magic hands.

On September 11, 2001, when America was being attacked, Kevyn was diagnosed with Acromegaly, a rare condition characterized by an over-production of the human growth hormone triggered by a brain tumor. He underwent surgery but, a few months later, he collapsed in his country home and never regained consciousness. News of his death reverberated throughout the fashion industry.

"A Beautiful Life" is a fitting memorial to Kevyn Aucoin. For many who have followed his career and read his books, "Face Forward" and "The Art of Makeup," it might seem like a reshuffle of old material. But even if a lot of stuff is in fact repeated, the book somehow remains poignant and reverent. Maybe it is in the way he is remembered with much fondness as a beautiful person. He himself once said: "Life is too short to spend hoping that the perfectly arched eyebrow or hottest new lip shade can mask an ugly heart."

Babe in a boudoir

By Bea Valdes
Contributor

BOUDOIR. A word that swirls around in the mouth, then kisses the lips, before being exhaled into speech. In the secret lives of language, it is revealed to have come from the French verb "boudier," meaning to sulk or to be sullen. Apparently, this is the attitude one adopts when escaping from the husband, the children and the over-frocked friends in 18th-century France.

In that secret space, a woman engaged in traditionally feminine activities like sewing, reading, and letter-writing. Within its walls lay the intimate riddles of a woman's sensuality. Articles of dressing, of undressing and of cosmetic concoctions litter this room, clues to the art of seduction.

From 'tea time' to 'me time'

The Twinning Company relates that the 7th Duchess of Bedford, at around 3 p.m., would be beset with "that sinking feeling," and would alleviate this by having a pot of tea and light refreshments brought to her boudoir. A friend once called upon her and was invited to join her for this snack. This practice moved to the drawing room and soon became all the rage, with fashionable society "sipping tea and nibbling sandwiches in the middle of the afternoon." Every era has a designated venue for gossip over food; this boudoir politics share shape with today's cosmopolitan lounges.

But this concept of intimate geography seems to have been lost in translation in contemporary life. As technology now allows people to work from home, I find that my own version is a white-walled box, meant for reading (faxes), writing (faxes), sewing (as there are my embroiderers at my side), and drinking an obscene amount of green tea. Though the activities are the same, it is not called a boudoir but an office. With the Internet, the obligatory computer, and walls stacked with intelligent storage systems, the home office seems like an area designated to accumulate paper and plastic.

A life filled with objects of McDesign reinforces the fact that we have become good consumers. To free ourselves, we

search for a room of our own that's not just about things that we own. We become drawn to the unique; we seek out the individualistic, the unorthodox and the curious.

Efficiency has chased away the frivolity of the boudoir. When you think of rooms we build in our homes, there are personal spaces for rest (bedrooms), communal spaces (living room and kitchen), work spaces (the office). When it is not called a family room, the den is usually a masculine space. Dressing rooms are scarce, and usually they are meant to be little more than elaborate storage for clothes.

New theater

The boudoir, in essence, is a woman's personal sanctuary, a few steps away from the orbit of flurry. There no longer exists a space to nest, thus the hen flies the coop.

The retreats in our modern-day lives are spent away from home. We trek to Tagaytay or flee to Chiva Som, where we can delight in rummaging through spa menus. Women hide in salons for peace and pampering. We seek out spaces that take us away from this profoundly non-sensual, desensitized world. Themed restaurants are the new theater, where we can go beyond just eating a certain cuisine, and escape into a sensory experience that includes design, music and mood.

In a recent exhibition in Hong Kong, designers Tord Boontje and Ilse Crawford conceived of a 21st century equivalent to the boudoir. Their brief was to "try to marry femininity with technology and modernity. To execute archetypal glamour with a love of comfort, warmth and tactility."

The exhibit looked like this:

Various articles of clothing (transparent pieces of underwear, soft chemises, stockings, skirts) suspended on hangers of different heights, forming a movable, transparent boundary, a ghostly, sheer wall.

On the floor, there is a futon, a thick comforter, a down pillow. A long wire basket lies on the side, in which a small sea of pink tea lights flicker. A friend who took her masters in lighting did say the most flattering light on a woman is still that one from a candle. This is, after all, the woman who advocates design mix of the



MINIMALISM is sooooo over. The female sanctuary executes archetype glamour with comfort, color and tactility.

planned and the unplanned.

Sparse, but cozy, the whole area is bathed in pink light. Paul Klee once said that one eye sees, the other feels. This place feels like a dream. It's witty, it's glam. And it makes one want to take out a butter knife and carve out a similar quiet, private pause.

There is a shift in decoration from the minimalism of the 1990s. Restraint is a different concept from subtraction. Clean lines are wonderful, but curves are warmer, more organic forms. The problem with minimalism, in its nihilistic extreme, is that it does not connote the words that one loves to associate with the home: cozy, warm, snug, intimate, weather-beaten, words that snuggle up to you, in places that tell stories. After all, things are only brand spanking new once.

Channeling Coco

Feminine hedonism seems to be the catch phrase of the moment. It harkens back to "19th-Century follies" says a trend spotter. Elle Decor ran a spread titled, "Glamour Puss," which contended: "Uber-chic means chicks with flicks, smart cocktails and lick-me fondue, modern cool with cheekbones to die for." I am still pondering the necessity of such cheekbones. In more attainable concepts, it speaks of the return of pattern, but in overblown proportions. There will be giant damasks in vivid colors, complimented by crystals, chinoiserie, mirrors and the revival of the chandelier. Luxury, in its most florid and enchanting, returns. And it does so on a red carpet: with

the new Baccarat Palace showroom in Paris, designed by Starcke, fantasy again collides with a phantasmagoria of styles. In it is a celebration of light and glass. Says the New York Times: "The poignant lyricism of the chandelier touched a nerve in those who feel that much of today's design is missing emotional weight."

The boudoir is an example of space formed following an emotion. Think of it as an extension of the essentials in life—oxygen for the body, the mind's breathing space, sustenance and food for thought, room to think. "To the boudoir!" women must declare then, with the purest of pouts. Or is it "To the light house" as, a century later, Virginia Woolf would reiterate the value of a room of one's own. It is where one keeps a stock of rose-tinted glasses and imagine a chandelier while waiting for the cheekbones to arrive.

For feedback, email the author at loane17@yahoo.com.

Bath works show

MORE than just a place for cleansing, the bathroom can also be a place for healing.

Innovator and bathroom designer Hansgrohe, through its Pharo brand name, addresses the ever-increasing demand for "health beneficial" products.

Pharo's Shower Panel, Shower Temple, Whirlpools and Steam Showers will be on display at Worldbex from March 16-20 at the World Trade Center.

For details, call Kuysen Bath Gallery at 729-3595.



RED on Bea conveys energy. Black on Jackie speaks with authority.



WHITE is cooling for summer because it reflects light.



RED skirt grabs attention while the minimalist black top on teenage Bea lends sophistication.



JACKIE dons a military shirt in uplifting red. Black slacks give a slim appearance.

Articles of a life

Mosaic clothes reflect a woman's flexibility in the various roles that she plays

By Bea Valdes
Contributor
Photos by Denise Weldon
Pictorial direction
by Antonio Salac Santos

WHAT are you wearing right now, really? Chances are, it is not screaming, "Forward fashion! I am the Avant-Garde." Instead, it's bound to be something fished out from the closet of real life.

In truth, we live in nesting clothes, in pieces to roll into on Sunday mornings. We search for the most comfortable jeans, slip into the softest t-shirt, constantly reinvent the classic white blouse, and cocoon in clothes we favor when sighing into the perfect cup of coffee.

Ilse Crawford, design guru, states that comfort has as much, or maybe far more, to do with the way we feel than the way things look.

Anne Marie Saguil tries to celebrate both notions of style and comfort when creating clothes for Mosaic.

"I prefer to call myself a merchandiser," she ex-

plains, readily conceding the title of "designer" to the couture set.

From scratch

She focuses on "giving people clothes that they can wear everyday, maybe with a fashion detail." She builds her collection from scratch, insisting on making their own patterns. Other local labels purchase ready-made items from nearby Hong Kong, she says.

Saguil also formulates a color story for each season. In this one, she is all for Brights, with key words like "Poppy, Wasabi, Turquoise, Electrics."

Most interesting about her basics is that she sizes them from 0 through 12, which is a relief—all women know that we are not created in just four sizes.

She likens her concept of merchandising to that

of the United States. No wonder, as she spent 10 years working in the American garment industry, first with Jessica McClintock, then under private label companies. Not only did she take up fashion merchandising, but finished a Bachelor of Science course in textile and clothing. This means that, when push comes to shove, she can talk about a fabric's molecular structure, or discuss extracting natural dyes from beet.

Frenetic

The idea of clothes for real life comes from the fact that Saguil's own time is laid out in the fragments of family and work. There are swatches of next season's fabrics intermingled with grocery lists, and the sweet ringing of the phone—calls from her daughter. Her office is full of frenetic energy,

and in between running her business, she is also moving homes, managing her current household and mothering three young children.

Her products reflect a woman's flexibility in the various roles that she plays, a patchwork of routines.

Ultimately, she returns to clothes that yield to the spin of her daily activities, pieces for the bigger picture and articles of a life in Mosaic.

MOSAIC IS LOCATED AT ROBINSON'S GALLERIA AND ROCKWELL POWERPLANT MALL.

Models: Jackie Ejercito-Lopez, Bea Meer
Ms. Lopez's makeup by Ronnie Cruz
Hairstyle by Ross Gango
Styling by Camille Cruz-Reyes

Taming Pinay tresses

ONLY heiresses and women of leisure can visit the salon everyday for a shampoo and blow-dry; the average working woman would go for a wash-and-wear cut any old time.

Dutch hairdresser Femke de Graaf of Basement Salon brings her no-nonsense precision cutting savvy to the Philippines. She admits being challenged by the texture of Filipina hair, but her scissors can tame the trademark unruliness caused by tropical weather.

De Graaf comes from a family of artists. Her father is a famous television director in Europe and her stepmother is a thespian who plays Roxie in the

Dutch production of "Chicago." While many Filipinos dream of migrating, De Graaf says she loves staying in the Philippines, chaos and all.

Basement is located at Rockwell Power Plant Mall, tel. no. 899-6666 and 898-2222.

Photos by Bobot Meru
Model: Connie Orbigos of Cal Carrie's
Makeup: Flor Rivera
Assistant: Jerome Secjadas

FEMKE De Graaf lets her hairstyles speak for themselves



OUR MODEL'S hair is so long and thick at the ends, that it drags her face down.



FOUR inches were trimmed off. Layering enhances her natural waves. No need to blow-dry.

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor



CLASSIC meat and fava bean stew

Several local items have made it to Terry Selection's shelves as well. Among the newest and most notable is the Choice line by Century Tuna—tender cuts of tuna belly simmered in tomato sauce. The line is produced in limited quantities and commercially available only at De Terry's shop.

The array of items can be confounding. When he is not manning Segundo Piso's open kitchen, De Terry is at the deli, helping buyers choose wines, cheeses, sausages and cold cuts, breads and pastries, nuts, pickles, preserves, trifles, spices and seasonings. Among these offerings, De Terry apparently takes most pride in his hand-picked wine selection—600 bottles from France, Spain, Argentina, Chile, New Zealand and Australia. He doesn't hold a Ph.D. in Oenology for nothing; and the usually reticent Spaniard gladly dishes out advice about his beloved vino:

"In the Philippines, there is a growing appreciation for wine. But people seem to limit their options to a few brands, probably because there aren't many places where they can get advice. Here, anybody can come up to me and I will answer their questions. I can match the wine to their menu or show them the best quality brand for their budget. Even my staff have tasted the wines and can help clients."

De Terry also lends his expertise to the local Food & Wine Society, which has regular wine tasting sessions; and to the Cheese Club, which meets monthly to sample at least three new kinds of cheese. For this month's meet-

Segundo Piso was born out of a clamor from regulars for a place where they can immediately enjoy Terry Selection's products. "At first, people would buy our bread, our cold cuts, our dressing, and then ask us to fix it up into a sandwich for them," De Terry recounts. "But since so many were doing this, a long queue would form outside the deli. We needed to make them comfortable." Since opening in January 2003, Segundo Piso's menu has widened and evolved; but to this day, anything sold in the deli—even the wine—can be served, and customers will be charged only the retail price.

Saturday lunches are special (and long, going from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) as De Terry personally whips up dishes based on old family recipes or new deli products, such as lamb with *rioja* pepper sauce, or clams in a sauce of dry sherry and *pementon dela vera* (sweet paprika). During our visit, he spoke enthusiastically about the black *paella* he prepares using squid ink paste made by Nortindal, a rather obscure Spanish company that took him years to track down. "They perfected the technology of extending the shelf life of squid ink without resorting to preservatives," De Terry explains. This not only means convenience, but consistent and outstanding results.

Diners who balk at rich sauces and hearty fare are given De Terry's classic rejoinder: There is nothing that a glass of wine cannot cure. "I grew up in the sherry-producing region, where I noticed a pretty low incidence of high blood pressure. It was probably because we always had a glass of wine—usually sherry—with our meals."

De Terry laments what he calls "the decline of real gastronomy." With the proliferation of buffet lines and eat-all-you-can deals around town, the proper sit-down meal is fast disappearing. "The old style of fine dining was to prepare four different courses and probably have three different wines during the meal. Now you have all this food on one plate—what wine do you drink? Fortunately, there are still people who want to learn; and who entertain the old-fashioned way. Some come to me asking about a dinner they want to host, and some even choose the wines first."

For De Terry, opening the restaurant has given him another way of imparting knowledge to his regulars. "I freely share my recipes with those who ask for them," he reveals. "It's really just a pleasure to see people keep coming back."

Terry Selection is located at 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Karrivin Plaza, Makati City. Tel. 844-1816.

By Leovino Ma. Garcia
Contributor

A LOCAL legend tells of a mythical bird that pecked on a bamboo pole until it split open to reveal, from within (*loob*), the first man and the first woman—Malakas and Maganda. A colored-glass rendition of this "Creation" scenario adorned Malacañang Palace during Martial Law.

Two foremost values treasured in the Filipino culture are *lakas-loob* (courage) and *kagandahang-loob* (inner beauty or, in a word, goodness). A key concept in the collective thinking is *utang na loob*, literally a "debt

thinking is *utang na loob*, literally a "debt from within," one rooted in a person's heart. To appreciate *utang na loob*, one has to consider that *loob* refers to a concrete experience of oneself. In expressing that one is happy or carefree, one says *magaan ang aking loob*; worried, *magulo ang aking loob*; optimistic, *malawak ang aking loob*; fragile, *marupok ang aking loob*.

What exactly is *utang na loob*? At first, it does look like a debt. But unlike other debts, it goes beyond the contractual level. And it can't be repaid in financial, or any material, terms. It is a debt that binds one's inner being (again, *loob*) to the inner being of another person. It is a bond brought about by appreciation: at a certain difficult time, one human being performed "an act of goodness" (an act of *kagandahang-loob*) for another human being. It creates a connection between donor and recipient that is truly hard to break.

In the past, this bond has been interpreted by cultural anthropologists, especially in the functionalist tradition, as a relationship of contractual reciprocity. It is not surprising then, that some historians have condemned *utang na loob* as a mechanism of feudal bondage rather than an expression of fraternal bonding. A caricatural example would be the politician who helps a laborer with the costly hospitalization of the latter's

wife. From this time on, the laborer will acknowledge the *utang na loob* and will be obliged to vote for the politician come election time, whether or not the politician is qualified.

But is this the true meaning of *utang na loob*? Perhaps the more basic experience that is the foundation of *utang na loob* has been forgotten? Surely, there is another way of looking at it. Hasn't the *utang* or debt part of the equation been underscored to such an extent the whole concept is interpreted only in terms of the quantifiable, and in terms of immediate reciprocity? It seems to have been grossly forgotten that this is *utang na loob*—not an actual debt that should be paid back, but a gift that calls on one to give, though not necessarily to the one who first gave.

If there must be a settling of accounts, as it were, it should not be a paying back, but a paying forward. Wouldn't this really be grace, if by that is meant the capacity to share what has been bestowed? From this perspective, one understands why one desires to pass on the gifts of life, love, knowledge. It is because one has been given life that one looks forward to giving life. It is because one has been loved that one aches to love. It is because one has been taught that one desires to teach. It is because we have been given a gift (to sing, to dance, to write) beyond calculation that we also aspire to "give without counting the cost," to use Ignatius of Loyola's beautiful formulation.

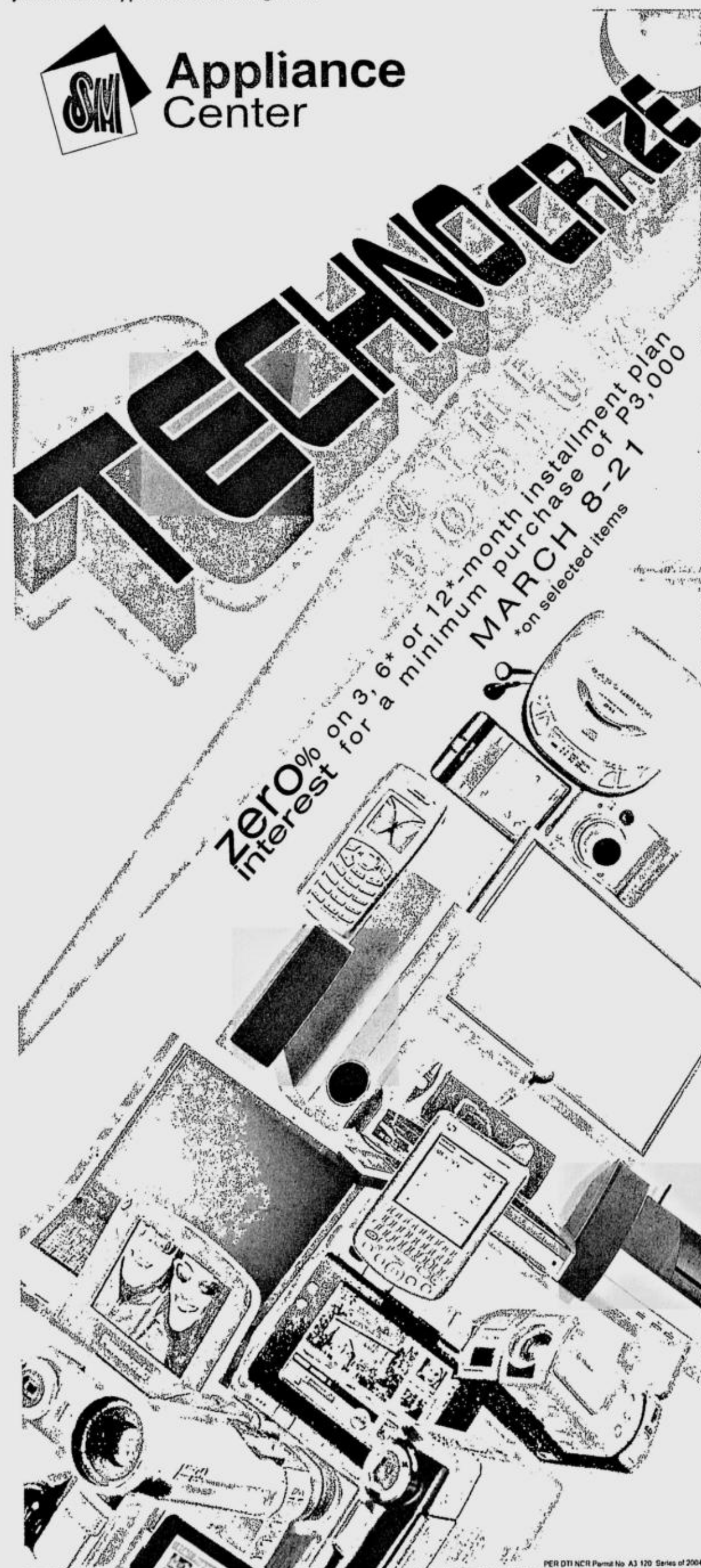
Utang na loob then presupposes the acknowledgement of a fundamental gift—the gift of one's self experienced as an inner space inhabited by the Infinite Other, who obliges one to unfold to all others, in freedom, the purest forms of *lakas-loob* and *kagandahang-loob*.

E-mail the author at lgarcia@ateneo.edu

Appliance Center

zero%
interest on 3, 6* or 12*-month installment plan
for a minimum purchase of P3,000

MARCH 8-21
*on selected items

HSBC [illegible]

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



FERSAL

EST. 1978

HOTEL INN

MAKATI - 107 Neptune St. (nr. Makati Ave.) 897-9123

CUBAO - 245 P. Tuszon St. (nr. Araneta Cir.) 912-8000

CUBAO - 49 Annapolis St. (nr. Aurora Blvd.) 912-5852

DILIMAN - 130 Kalyaan Ave. (nr. O.C. Hall) 924-2689

DAILY • WEEKLY • MONTHLY • 12-HOURS

P 400 - P 1,700 .NET

2 PAX

Discounts on Weekly/Monthly Stay

11th Day FREE

For assistance pls. call 911-2161

info@fersalinn.com

FERSAL PLACE HOTEL

- 131 Malakas St., Dilman (back of Heart Cir.) 426-7308

FERSAL INN MANILA

- 1455 A. Mendoza St. Sta. Cruz (nr. UST) 742-7292

FERSAL BAGUIO - Opening 2005

Inn Cafe

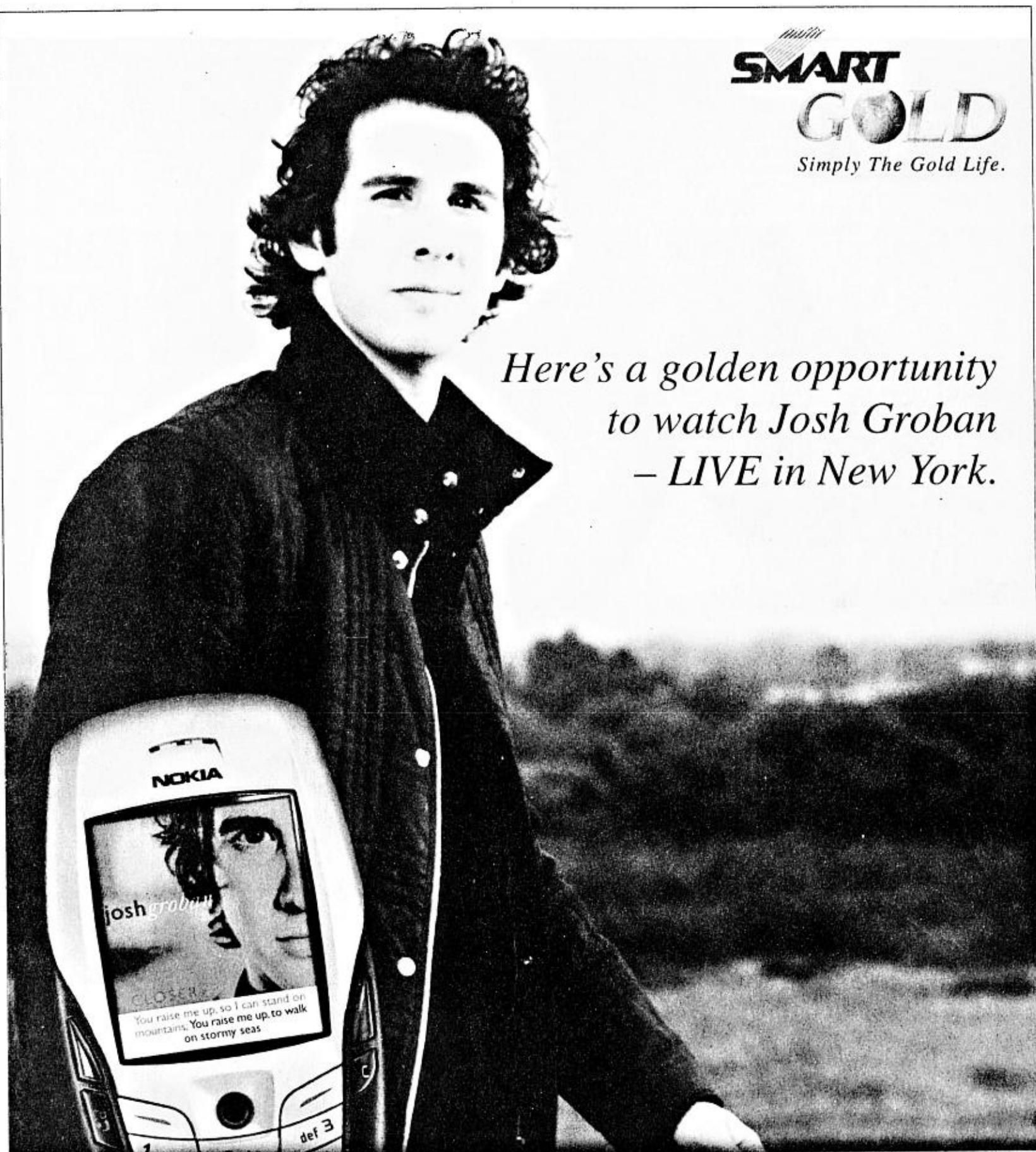
FULLY FURNISHED • NICE ROOMS • CLEAN

WHAT'S ON

AT ROBINSON'S



Witness the Viva Hot Babes on their Mall Tour as they promote their hit single "Bulakiak." It's a sizzling sight and sound spectacular that you should watch out for.



*Here's a golden opportunity
to watch Josh Groban
— LIVE in New York.*

SMART
Simply Amazing!

Doc ID: A58888 Page 1 of 1

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez celebrating 75 years

ALIWAN 1939 from the LOPEZ MUSEUM collection / Courtesy of KOMIKS CAFE / INQ EDITION 3.13.04



Breaking barriers in Asia through women's stories

By Rito P. Asilo

WHEN we were in Singapore last October with Monique Wilson, Tami Monsod and Jenny Jamora for the staging of New Voice's Asia-wide hit, Eve Ensler's controversial "The Vagina Monologues," the Lion City's people impressed us with their discipline, efficiency and strict observance of theater ethics.

Our one-man technical crew singlehandedly put up a three-storey platform cum ladder in 10 minutes—something that would take five men more than an hour to build here! No kidding.

We were not surprised by the rave reviews that greeted the actresses' performances, but we were struck by the diversity of enthusiastic viewers who packed the YMS Theater everyday—one night, we'd have mostly Chinese, the next Britons and Americans, the following night, Indians, etc.

Demographic

And, unlike the mostly-female audience demographic that we saw in "TVM" London, men in Singapore gamely watched the show with their wives, girlfriends and office mates.

After each performance, wom-

en would gather around the actresses to share their two cents' worth about the issues boldly dramatized in the show. Indeed, stories of rape, childbirth, physical abuse, abandonment, sexuality and woman's status in society are issues not unique to one place.

"TVM" has broken barriers by bravely detailing experiences of women that, until recently, have remained largely undiscussed—in ways that are funny, touching, disturbing, poignant and, yes, empowering.

To celebrate "TVM's" phenomenal success in Asia, NVC will ob-

serve Women's Month and the play's fourth year in Manila next week with a special three-day, four-performance run starting Thursday at 9 p.m. with 4 p.m. Saturday matinee (call 896-6695, 896-5497). The show features two of the actresses who topbilled the Singapore run: original "TVM" actress Tami Monsod and NVC resident actress Jenny Jamora.

Soul diva

They will be joined by singing star Jaya, who surprised people with her hilarious performance at last year's VDay when she shared the piece, "Because He Liked to

Look at It," with Winnie Monsod. This time, the soul diva will portray "The Woman Who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," best known for the different "moans" it features.

The Manila run will open NVC's 10th anniversary season before it premieres its Japanese translation in Tokyo starting June 23. The company has also brought the show to Hong Kong. Its Filipino translations of the play had featured top actresses like Gina Alajar, Pinky Amador, Pinky Marquez and Angelu de Leon. And New Voice recently completed a Visayan translation of the play.



JAYA. Hilarious performance.



all in a days



Krizia

We've got it all for you!

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGIYO • MARILAO

Pilgrimage to Holy Land leaves March 30

ARLINA Onglao of Journeys of Faith shares these thoughts on the special significance to her of the pilgrimages to the Holy Land that she has organized through the years, despite the problems involved:

"All this time, I have taken for granted my privilege of visiting the Holy Land at least twice a year since 1996—that is, until the infatigable started again in September 2000. My last trip with a group of media people led by Jeanne Young, Julius Babao, Tintin Bersola, Baby Gil, Guia Ferrer and the Radio Veritas staff was in December 2000.

"At last, after three long years, I was able to go back to my second home. Just this Feb. 26, I decided to again take with me a group of 28 pilgrims to the Holy Land. This time, I told myself that I should savor each minute of my stay as if it were my last.

"It was a breeze! Our big tourist bus entered Jericho and Bethlehem without any hitch, compared to former times when we would have to transfer to taxis just to smuggle ourselves into Bethlehem, and totally bypass Jericho. The shrines were almost exclusively ours!

"It was not easy forming this group, it was like passing through the eye of a needle. Till the last hour, there were more or less 12 of us determined to go, but some pilgrims were apprehensive and vacillating from time to time.

"I knew that storming the heavens to get this group together was the key to forming it. Then, I told myself that the brave will be rewarded—and indeed we were! We even had two Biblical scholars with us, each of whom had led their own separate groups in the past. It was our common desire to get back to the Holy Land that brought us together.

"The Holy Land will always be a truly exhilarating experience I will remember and treasure all the days of my life. And something I will always want to share with every Christian."

The next Holy Land pilgrimage of Journeys of Faith will be from March 30 to April 7, and will be led by Fr. Renato Jose Lopez. Call Rona at 929-0144 or 929-0155,

or email journeys@info.com.ph.

'Hitback 2'

At 8:30 p.m., on March 13, "Hitback 2" at the Casino Filipino in Parañaque brings back yesterday's hits as performed by the country's musical icons, Rey Valera, Hajji Alejandro, the Hordog band, the Boyfriends and the Hitmakers. Willie Nepomuceno and his many personalities also take center-stage. Call 891-9999.



DEL ROSARIO. A line for fashion-savvy sportsmen.

Monsour sportswear in action

Action star and taekwondo Olympian Monsour del Rosario and Peak Martial Arts Equipment have partnered to create the Peak Classic Edition Taekwondo Z Dobok and Equipment products, an innovative line catering to the fashion conscious and sporty taekwondo warrior.

Using the new Peak Zicronium dobok textile material and creating a cutting-edge design for a sleek and comfortable look, the Peak Monsour Classic Z Dobok is not only built for the elite champion user but is also a definite fashion statement in sportswear.

With its lightweight cotton-polyester content, the Peak Zicronium texture guarantees comfort as well as durability, while maintaining a fashionable classic design appealing to the needs of the taekwondo practitioner. It is also proudly used by champions of the Philippine National Taekwondo Team.



FILIPINO pilgrims with some Israeli police officers in front of the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem: (At left), Bert Galano, Fr. Renato Lopez, tour guide Frank. First row (from left), Belen Pacannuayan, Steve Pacannuayan, Lilibeth Quintos, Yolanda Franco, Janet Torio. Second row (from left), Peng Balinghasay, Vicky Mallari, Lily Balinghasay, Golly Mirasol, Baby Poblete, Dory Tactacan, Bopeep Franco, Ester Nieva, Fr. Jorge Peligro, Boss Gutierrez. Third row (from left), Fr. James Gaa, Vicky Espiritu, Julie Rose Defensor, Doyee Tumpalan, Dina Castro, Tetet Tactacan, Ed Poblete, Fr. Chong Balinggao, Fr. Gerry Tapiador, Arlina Onglao and Flor Bacar.

AIM training hones Marvin Agustin's management skills

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER eight eventful years in the biz, Marvin Agustin has proven that he's one of the most versatile young-adult stars around.

He hosts the new show "To the Max," does comedy in the "Ang Tanging Ina" sitcom, and flexes his dramatic muscles in the soap, "Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas," all on ABS-CBN.

He's also a creditable film actor, as his sensitive performance in his latest movie, the 2003 Metro filmfest entry, "Malikmata," attested.

What makes Marvin such a standout? Unlike many of his peers who wing it on looks and "kilig appeal" alone, Marvin makes it a point to keep honing his talents.

Rigorous course

We saw this for ourselves last year when we were "classmates" with Marvin in the Asian Institute of Management's Managing the Arts program, a rigorous and eye-opening course designed to teach artists how to become entrepreneurs, and business-oriented people to become more creative and understand the arts.

The program directed by Prof. Cecile B. Manikan attracted quite a lot of arts luminaries, among them Laurice Guillen and Chris Millado, while Marvin was the only TV-film star in the class.

And yet, his commitment and enthusiasm were palpable from the first day of the course onwards, so his classmates gave him no special treatment, and he worked as hard as everybody else.

Directing

In fact, Marvin had to work even harder, because he took the two-week course on top of his already full performing schedule. But he didn't complain and did as well as the other students, proving that there was much more to him and his plans for himself than just acting.

In fact, this early, Marvin has been moving into the field of directing. With the AIM training he got last year, he could also branch out into producing, and thus help showcase other deserving young talents in his future projects.

If, like Marvin, you want to learn more about the dynamic fusion of business and the arts, AIM is holding another Managing the Arts seminar-workshop from April 19 to 30.

It is an innovative, practitioner-oriented course in arts management, designed in the language of artists, for key people in arts and cultur-



AGUSTIN. Committed and enthusiastic.

al organizations, entrepreneurs and key decision-makers in commercial artistic outfits.

Leadership potential

It teaches artist-entrepreneurs to adopt AIM's whole brain and entrepreneurial approach, stressing critical, creative and systems thinking. It seeks to develop the full leadership potential of the arts manager, and enhances the marketing, operations and financial skills of the arts practitioner.

Its sessions cover self and situational mastery, visioning and strategic planning in the arts, creative and intuitive management, wooing the arts consumer, managing creative and business tensions, and even negotiation and conflict resolution.

Deadline for enrollment is April 17. Call 892-40-11 to 25, local 144, fax 867-2114 or Email artsmanagement@dataserve.aim.edu.ph.

From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER



JOBMARKET
ONLINE

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

JOIN NOW!

CEBU PACIFIC

Jollibee Summer Holiday Vacation Tour

Cebu



Manila



Bacolod



Hongkong



Davao



Iloilo

Child psychologists have spoken

From page D1

learned from this one episode, and apply them to all TV shows that involve children. TV people have to educate themselves on the medium's negative and positive impact on young viewers, so they can eliminate the former, and emphasize the latter.

Vulnerable psyche

Quite often, because they're adults, TV people forget that there are many children watching their shows, especially during the daytime and evening hours, so they have to take their vulnerable psyches into account.

Many TV people think there's nothing wrong with stressful, violent and sexy material, because it doesn't bother them. But it has negative effects on immature viewers, as our child psychologists have reminded us, so informed changes in attitude and practice have to be made by our TV networks.

We urge our TV channels to hire child psychologists as consultants, who will view and react to their programs, with the view in mind of making them child-friendly and child-considerate.

The consultants should also conduct seminars for network personnel, to enlighten them on the right of children to non-threatening programming. Since TV is available in homes all day and most hours of the night, it has to be regarded as a "GP" medium, so children's welfare should be one of our channels' top priorities.

In addition, President Arroyo should appoint child psychologists to the MTRCB.

Adult viewers

Since adult viewers can pretty much take care of themselves (because they're adults), the MTRCB's focus should be on protecting young viewers. Expert judgment is needed in this regard, and it can best be supplied, not by lawyers, civic leaders, etc., but by psychologists who have both knowledge and experience in determining how children's vulnerable psyches are negatively affected by the TV and movie productions they're exposed to.

We trust that our networks and the MTRCB will consider these suggestions. We shouldn't be at odds here, but we should all work together for the welfare of the millions of children in this country who depend on us adults to protect them from mass media inputs that they're too immature to adequately handle and assimilate.

MECHANICS:

1. Every P150 food purchase with any chicken or spaghetti products in a single receipt at participating Jollibee outlets entitles you to a raffle ticket.
2. Every ticket purchase at any Cebu Pacific ticket centers entitles you to a raffle ticket.
3. Print name, address, telephone number and affix signature and drop the raffle ticket at designated drop boxes located at participating Jollibee stores and Cebu Pacific ticket centers.
4. Promo period is from February 20 to March 31, 2004.
5. Last day of dropping of entries will be until the closing hours of Jollibee stores and Cebu Pacific ticket centers on March 31, 2004.
6. Raffle draw will be held at 9th floor, Jollibee Plaza building, #10 Emerald Ave. Pasig at 4:00pm of April 14, 2004 with the presence of a DTI representative.
7. Participants can only win once. If a name is drawn more than once, he gets the bigger prize.
8. Prizes are not convertible to cash but the trips are transferable.
9. Prizes at stake are:

LUZON

- 3 winners-trip for two to Hongkong
- 5 winners-trip for two to Cebu
- 5 winners-trip for two to Bacolod
- 5 winners-trip for two to Iloilo
- 5 winners-trip for two to Davao
- all trips are inclusive of round trip tickets and three days / two nights hotel accommodations
- 0 winners LG CP-20M30 television
- 0 winners LG DVD-DK7711

VISMIN

- 1 winner-trip for two to Hong Kong
- 4 winners-trip for two to Manila
- all trips are inclusive of round trip tickets and three days / two nights hotel accommodations
- 2 winners LG CP-20M30 television
- 2 winners LG DVD-DK7711

10. Winners will be notified through registered mail and by phone on how to claim their prize. Winners will also be announced in a newspaper of general circulation.
11. Winners can claim their trips and prizes at Jollibee Main Office- 9th Floor, Jollibee Plaza Building, #10 Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Winners must present at least 1 valid ID, claim stub, and notification letter. Provincial winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Jollibee branches.
12. Winners can avail of their trips during off peak season as defined by Cebu Pacific within one year from the date of issuance.
13. Securing of travel documents, other travel expenses will be shouldered by the winners. The 20% tax for prizes exceeding 10,000 pesos shall be shouldered by Jollibee Food Corporation.
14. Prizes unclaimed after 60 days from receipt of notification shall be forfeited in favor of Jollibee Foods Corporation with prior DTI approval.
15. Employees of Jollibee Foods Corporation and its participating franchise stores, Cebu Pacific ticket offices and their relatives up to the second degree of affinity or consanguinity are disqualified to join the raffle.
16. Promo valid in Jollibee stores nationwide except in Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Radamploria and Baring in Bacman. Also valid at any Cebu Pacific ticket centers nationwide.

PROMO DURATION: February 20 to March 31, 2004

with
CEBU PACIFIC
ABENSON
LG Electronics

Participating Hotels:



Per DTI-NCR Permit No.0554, Series of 2004

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SATURDAY*Special*

Boosting Philippine theater through initiatives for children

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS year, we are starting children's theater initiatives with several cultural organizations. We urge other theater people to focus on writing scripts and mounting productions for young viewers, because this thrust is what the local performing situation calls for.

This is dictated by several factors: First, our population is generally a youthful one, so more shows should be produced with this majority in mind.

Then, there's the problem of audience-building, which has

eluded solution for many years. When we headed a Filipino theater delegation to Russia, we found that solution in how theater artists there went about their work:

Readily affordable

Many of them put up children's theater productions, which were generously subsidized by the state, so ticket prices could be brought down to make them readily affordable to everybody.

So, children's theater productions were invariably SRO affairs. But our real epiphany came when we watched plays staged for



ROA AND ABUEL. Eye-opening Russian experience.



adult audiences—and they were also exceedingly well-patronized.

The Russian theater artists we interacted with pointed out the

key connection: All theater presentations in Russia were full-house affairs, because Russians had been taught to love watching plays as kids, by exposing them to

excellent and imaginative children's theater presentations.

Habit

Thus, as they grew up, they developed the habit of going to the theater, and when they became adults, they gladly paid for theater tickets for themselves and their own children, causing the beautiful process to come full circle.

The lesson wasn't lost on us: To develop an enthusiastic audience for theater, start them young with good children's theater productions. That's why we are focusing on this initiative this year.

The lesson also hasn't been lost

on our theater colleagues, Boots Anson-Roa and Tommy Abuel, who shared our eye-opening Russian experience, under the auspices of the Phil-Soviet Friendship Society.

Being a mother herself, Boots is concerned about the values children get from the entertainment they're exposed to onstage and in the mass media. And, as an artist who's seen the positive value and influence of good children's theater, she is similarly sold on the far-reaching principle of starting them young to build an enthusiastic audience for Philippine theater.

(To be concluded)

Visit us at www.hsbc.com.ph

Don't just shop 'til you drop.

Buy 'til you fly.

Double or Triple your Miles with Mabuhay Miles Visa.

Ready for a shopping high? Then earn Miles faster than ever before. Just use your Mabuhay Miles Visa at select establishments and double or even triple your Miles.* With **Extra Mile** exclusively from Mabuhay Miles Visa, the hottest designer labels, the coolest appliances, the best meals and the most desirable indulgences are your ticket to a free trip.

And everywhere else you use your card, you get one free Mile for every P45 you charge. No doubt the more you shop, the sooner you'll fly for free.

So start piling up the Miles and let your purchases take you places.

*The following conversion rates apply for purchases made at select partner establishments of HSBC. For Mabuhay Miles Visa Classic, P45=2 free Miles; for Mabuhay Miles Visa Gold, P45=3 free Miles. The standard conversion rate of P45=1 free Mile applies in all other establishments.

Prdhan period is from 24 February 2004 to 31 January 2005. See flyers for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0103 Series of 2004

Call 878-7878 to apply for a Mabuhay Miles Visa today!

HSBC 
The world's local bank

Issued by The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited


 Double or Triple
your Miles
at these
establishments:

ANNE KLEIN
 JESSICA
 KENNETH COLE
 LACOSTE
 Calvin Klein
 CHARRIOL
 colour eighteen
 Dexter
 EPISODE
 J. Paul
 JACK SPADE
 MARLBORO CLASSICS
 NINE WEST
 POLAROID
 RALPH LAUREN
 SPRINGFIELD
 TUTTO MODA

A/X • Armani Exchange • Bally • Bottega Veneta • Burberry • Coach • DKNY • DKNY Jeans • Gucci • Kate Spade • Marks & Spencer • Polo Ralph Lauren • Prada • Salvatore Ferragamo • Ted's • Yves Saint Laurent

Sunkist

Pitcher Pack

Only P6.00 per pack
or P1.00 per glass!

Sunkist Pitcher Pack makes 6 glasses













BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SATURDAY Special



MONTANO. Plays a coveted role in John Dahl's "The Great Raid."

Cesar relives Aussie filming experience

By Remy M. Umerez

FEW Filipino actors have penetrated the international film scene and enjoyed equal exposure with foreign stars. They include Barbara Perez, who co-starred with Jeffrey Hunter in "No Man Is An Island," and Pancho Magalona, who shared lead billing with John Agar in "Cry Freedom."

Fast-forward to 2002, when Cesar Montano auditioned three times and bagged the coveted role of guerilla leader Juan Pajota in "The Great Raid," a war drama set in Cabañatuan, Nueva Ecija during World War II.

Cesar's manager Norma Japitana shares: "There was another role for Cesar which had lengthy exposure, but no substance. Benjamin Bratt is helped by a Filipino aide and wherever Bratt goes, so does the aide. But the character wasn't that interesting, so we opted for the role of the guerilla leader."

More comprehensive

According to Cesar, the film's pre-production stage was longer and more comprehensive than the actual shooting itself. He had to be physically fit for the role, so he joined the other actors in jungle exercises early each morning.

"It was always a one-on-one with director John Dahl. We thoroughly discussed why my character would behave a certain way in a particular scene. Everything was detailed, from the way my character talked to how he walked."

"I remember a scene which we had to shoot 19 times, and there was no dialogue involved. We had to walk from one barracks to another—it was the most difficult march I ever had to do. You'd never hear Dahl shout cut. He would simply say, again, from the beginning," Montano sighs.

Dahl told Cesar to shave his head in order to be noticed by viewers. The director was impressed with the bald look Cesar sported in "Muro Ami." Cesar's intense performance in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's film was a determining factor for his being chosen to play Capt. Pajota.

Trailers

The major stars were provided with air-conditioned trailers on the set, which were fully-equipped with TV, component, bed and toilet.

Montano says he appears toward the middle of the movie and stays on the screen until the end. Bratt plays Col. Lull, who is sent to rescue some American soldiers from the hands of the Japanese. He works closely with Pajota, although their strategies differ.

This month, Cesar leaves again for the Gold Coast, Australia to shoot additional scenes for the \$50-million Miramax production.

Also in the cast of "The Great Raid" are Joseph Fiennes, Connie Nielsen and Paolo Montalban. The film will be released this May.

ACL Suites

HAPPY 2 RETURN

A happy return deserves another. Just stay in any of our luxurious and comfortable suites, whether full or half day and **get 50% OFF** on your next stay*.

A happier return at half the rate! Valid until April 30, 2004

*except full-deluxe

72 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City
Tel.Nos. 913-2123 to 25; 438-3264
Info@aclsuites.com.ph

Fax No. 438-3263
www.aclsuites.com

Cooking Demo

AT EASTWOOD CITY

March 13, 2004 / 3 PM
Central Plaza

- Free admission
- Free food sampling for first 30 guests
- Registration starts 2 pm

Featuring:

Chef Rosa Laurel

of

MAMA ROSA

FILIPINO DELI • RESTAURANT

Sponsored by:



Eastwood City

Eastwood City, E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue (C-5), Quezon City • Tel. 687-6771 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

Kusog Kaayo and Globe sa Davao

INTENSITY ARAW NG DABAW

Globe goes partying in Davao - the Fruit Basket of the Philippines.

Enjoy a varied crop of events:

- Globe Party Mix
Rizal Promenade
Liquid Bar
Autoshop
March 13
March 13, 20 & 27
March 13
- SM Entertainment Plaza Festivities
March 14, 15, 16 & 19
- Intensity @Motorcade
March 13
- Intensity @Street Party
at Magsaysay Park
March 13
- @Bar Raids at Impit Purok,
Whistle Top, 7th Avenue, Halo,
Kyle's Bar, Blue Post 1 and 2
March 13
- MYMP at Jack's Ridge
March 15
- Araw ng Dabaw Grand Parade
March 16

Prime Globe Prepaid deals are yours for the picking!

- Choose from a wide range of Globe Prepaid Phonekits -- the most affordable ever! Take advantage of all our offers from March 9 to 16 at the following venues:
Victoria Plaza Mall
NCCC Main
NCCC Mall
SM City Davao
Gaisano South
Centro Supermart
Felcris Superstore
- FREE Globe SIM Switch at Globe Telecom Business Centers and selected switching booths.

Celebrate Araw ng Dabaw with a new @Flex Plan!

- Upgrade your Globe Plans to our consumable @Flex Plans! Use your monthly fee to call, text, send MMS or download from myGlobe. Call 730-1000 now for inquiries.
- Check out the latest phones from @Flex Plans at Globe Telecom Business Centers in Davao!

Get special Araw ng Dabaw downloads. Text ON to 2375 for a list.

Icon Text Card Wallpaper

ADAPTABLE KARAWING DABAW KARAWING DABAW

Onstage 2nvt

Coastal LAS PINAS 801.7644	Coastal MABINI 525.1474	Coastal MALATE 521.8143	Coastal NOVALICHES 936.9757	Coastal BIÑAN 404.9511.7288	Coastal REMEDIOS 517.0479
THINKERS/JOGRAD EMMANUELLE	PRO MASHRY PERFECT STRANGERS	PHRYGIAN CROSSTOWN	AFTER 8 KOOLJACKS	VERSE 2 MUSIC CIRCUIT	TIA MARIA'S FIRST SIGHT 3RD MOVEMENT
OPEN FROM 6PM TO 8PM NO ENTRANCE FEE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 8PM NO ENTRANCE FEE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 8PM NO ENTRANCE FEE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 8PM NO ENTRANCE FEE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 8PM NO ENTRANCE FEE	OPEN FROM 6PM TO 8PM NO ENTRANCE FEE

MARCH 13 SATURDAY

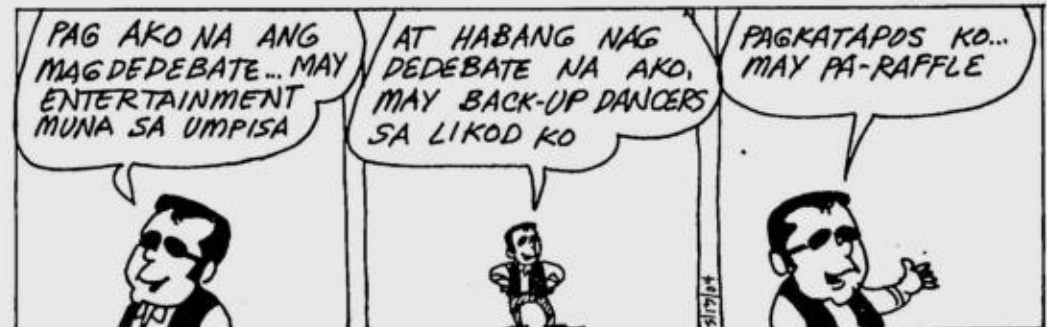
making great things possible **Globe** HANDYPHONE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

FOXTROT



A. LIPIN



MARVIN



PUGAD BABOY



BABY BLUES



MUTTS



ATOMO AND WEBOY



DIVINE COMEDY



HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intelligent. You feel you are headed for a prescribed path of destiny. You like philosophy, religion, spiritual teachings and thought-provoking subjects. Many of you have the gift of prophecy. You want to learn as much as you can. Work hard this year for rewards that follow in 2005.

Birthdate of: Glenn Headly, actress; William H. Macy, actor; Neil Sedaka, musician.

- ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** With Mercury in your sign now, you have a strong desire to talk to practically anyone. You feel you have something to say, and you want to be heard!
- TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You're playing your cards close to your chest. You want to keep your opinions to yourself. This is a good time to do personal research.
- GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Take a few moments today to think about your relationship to groups around you. Are your goals your own, or are you unconsciously adopting the goals of others?
- CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Try not to let red tape take up too much time on your job. Communication is more important than usual. This is a good time to talk to bosses, superiors and people of influence.
- LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** This is an excellent time to take up any kind of study, course or method of broadening your education. Try to expose yourself to cultures and systems of thought that are different from your own.
- VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Discussions and negotiations about finances or shared property are likely to day. Clarify fuzzy details about anything that you hold jointly with someone else. Ditto for shared responsibilities.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Tentative taste
- Valuable violin, briefly
- Capital on the Willamette
- Judge or school lead-in
- Nondrinkers
- Behave humanly?
- Unjustified assumptions
- The Joker on "Batman"
- Control freak of the worst kind
- Module classroom
- Eight, pref.
- Comic/actress Delaria
- Asinine
- Keenness
- Camera letters
- Singer Campbell
- Produces foam
- Loose cloak
- Theatrical award
- Get off one's feet
- Basic beliefs
- Botanist's interest
- Actress Tyler
- Pianist John
- Carreras and Pavarotti
- Lodged, as soldiers
- Go from bad to worse
- Boise tuber
- Coast of Morocco
- Takes out a new home loan
- Half a fly?
- Zodiac ram
- Sound asleep?
- Orch. section

DOWN

- Eye-glasses: slang
- Impossible to retract
- Hounding
- 1994 Kurt Russell movie
- Incongruity
- Do-over in board games
- Tiny notes
- Venetian VIP
- Buddhist enlightenment
- Baba
- Gorcey or Kotke
- Sea eagle
- Writers' writings: abbr.
- Infield cover, for short
- Offbeat main character
- Stage-manager
- Instances of jumping the gun
- O.R. specialist
- Elaine's last name on "Seinfeld"
- Lofty peak
- Overhead
- Mos. and mos.
- Part of AARP
- Part of RSVP
- Released
- Dalai Lama, for one
- Passions
- Shrewish woman
- Calendar abbr.
- Cubic decimeter
- Put off
- Glads rags
- Gershwin or Levin
- German article
- Pierre's friend
- Soil turner

By Josiah Breward
Scranton, PA
3/13/04

Friday's Puzzle Solved

GLIB	OMER	WHENI
NANC	YETC	HALOS
ARAB	EAST	ALBUM
WASBOR	ULEANS	
YUL	SIANE	
IVASSO	SURPRISED	
SED	TRIBE	STELE
SILL	DEMOS	TELL
ERATO	SILOS	TET
INDIN	OTTALK	FORA
ERA	QUE	
UPPOS	FEARAND	
LOIR	PAR	RICE
LOCA	OGRE	ENOS
AHALI	LADE	TUSK

©2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc.
All rights reserved.

BEN



MIKROKOSMOS



KIKO MACHINE



LOVEKNOTS



TULDOK



Divo sings from the heart

By Andy Bais

LIKE Sheryn Regis, soul singer Divo is another talent whose star continues to rise despite defeat: On ABS-CBN's "Star Quest" two years ago, he had to settle for runner-up honors.

But the TV network took note of his stellar potential. Aware of his huge following, ABS-CBN hired him to sing the theme song of the Jericho Rosales and Kristine Hermosa movie, "Ngayong Nandito Ka."

Second single

Fortunately, the TV network's gamble is now paying off. Divo was part of Star Records' experimental "Solo" album that also featured Josh Santana and King. His second single, "Bakit Hindi?," is enjoying constant airplay.

He did our country proud when he recently bagged the Best Male Performer award at the Shanghai Song

Festival in China, where he gave a rousing interpretation of Soc Villanueva and Jungee Marcelo's "Better Me" and Michael Bolton's "Go The Distance."

Encouraging sales

The encouraging sales of his first album has prompted Star Records to release Divo's solo album in August. He is now deeply involved in its pre-production stage.

Divo started singing as early as he can remember. Both of his parents were singers.

He was a singing contest veteran even in college (he finished an accounting course). "Lagi akong kasali sa mga regional singing competitions—kaya lang, lagi namang talo. Siguro, dahil sa singing style ko na hindi bagay sa contest. Mahilig ako sa mga black singers at soulful songs," he explains.

His first experience as a professional singer was at the Subic Yacht Club. However, he quit singing after college and landed a more lucrative job as a casino dealer in Subic.

He was "rediscovered" when he jammed with a Manila-based band in Olongapo. Thus started his stints with several bands, where he learned many things about performing—like proper enunciation and timing.

Memorable

His stint with the Toy Symphony band was memorable because he met and worked with Ella May Saison. From being Ronald Bayer Diana, Ella May gave him his show biz monicker—Divo. "It's the male version of diva," he jokingly says.

Watching Divo perform live is quite an experience. He sings soul, R&B, and ballads from the heart and makes familiar tunes sound

fresh. At Suburbia in Malate, where he performs every Thursday, his followers never fail to give him an enthusiastic reception.

CASABLANCA

LEISURE LOUNGE

SATURDAY NIGHT PROMO

EVERY SATURDAY ONLY

- Buy One Take One on SMB Pale and Lights
- 30% off on other drinks
- 30% off on food
- No Minimum Charge
- No Cover Charge

Plus: Live Band or Stand-up Comedian

We accept Meetings & Party Reservations any time at affordable packages...

@ Level 2 Carpark Building, EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Mall, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No.: 687-0401, Fax No.: 687-0406
Look For Grace & Crisly



DIVO. Working on his first solo album.

Film and video festival

THE FOURTH Eksperimento Film and Video festival is ongoing until March 9 at the NCCA bldg., 633 Gen Luna st., Intramuros (527-2207). The complete screening schedule is at www.geocities.com/eksperimento/sked.

Films on view include "Maxima's Miracle" by

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

Filipino documentaries will also be screened: "Legacy" by Butch Nolasco, "The Islanders" by Miranamedina, "Batumbuhay: Pepe Smith Rockumentary" by Roxdee, "Sowing Seeds" by Avic Ilagan, and "The Case of Wilkie Duran Monte: Toxic Chemical Victim" by Minnie Solomon Crouse.

'Clown in a Million'

Every Wednesday night on Channel 2's "Yes, Yes Show," new comedic talents compete for prizes and recognition in the "Clown in a Million" segment. The stand-up comedy tilt is catching on, and viewers like the fact that they can vote for their winner of choice via text messaging.

On the tilt's first week, winner Raymond Sidney and other competitors received more than 15,000 text votes. If you want to help discover local show biz's next new comedy star, watch "Yes, Yes Show" next Wednesday.

Two in a row

After winning the top plum in last year's "Himig Handog sa Bayaning Filipino" with Si Ka Bayani, Arnel de Pano made it two in a row recently when he won anew in this year's tilt, "Himig Handog Love Songs," with "Kailan Kita Mamahalin," performed by Anna Regi. The song also won the Listener's Choice Award. Other winners in the 2004 competition: Best Interpreter Award, Aegis for Chona Borromeo's "Narito Lang Ako," and the Buyers' Choice and Texters' Choice Awards, both clinched by Marc Bryan Adona's "Maibabalik Ko Ba?"

Acoustic performers

At 8 p.m. on March 17, "Acoustic Night Live" at Eastwood City Walk's Central Plaza will be broadcast live on RX 93.1. Performers include Kitchie Nadal, Devotion, Sole Acoustix, Mic, 17:28, Sugar Shack and U-Turn.

K and the Boxers

This month, K and the Boxers perform at Soundstage Cainta every Tuesday, Ratsky Malate every Thursday, Ratsky Morato every Friday, and Klownz Araneta every Saturday. On March 25, they are among the featured artists at the Double Happiness restaurant in Lubao, Pampanga.

Cinema on 'Gothika'

The CBCP's Cinema (Catholic Initiative for Enlightened Movie Appreciation) gives the film "Gothika" these assessments: technical, average; moral, acceptable.

Detailed notes: "The film tries hard to be a psychological thriller, but ends up as just another scary date movie. Although director Matthieu Kassovitz is able to provide some good shocks with a gripping combination of sound and visuals, the narrative fails to surprise with its predictable twists and revelations. But the cast, led by Halle Berry, performs well..."

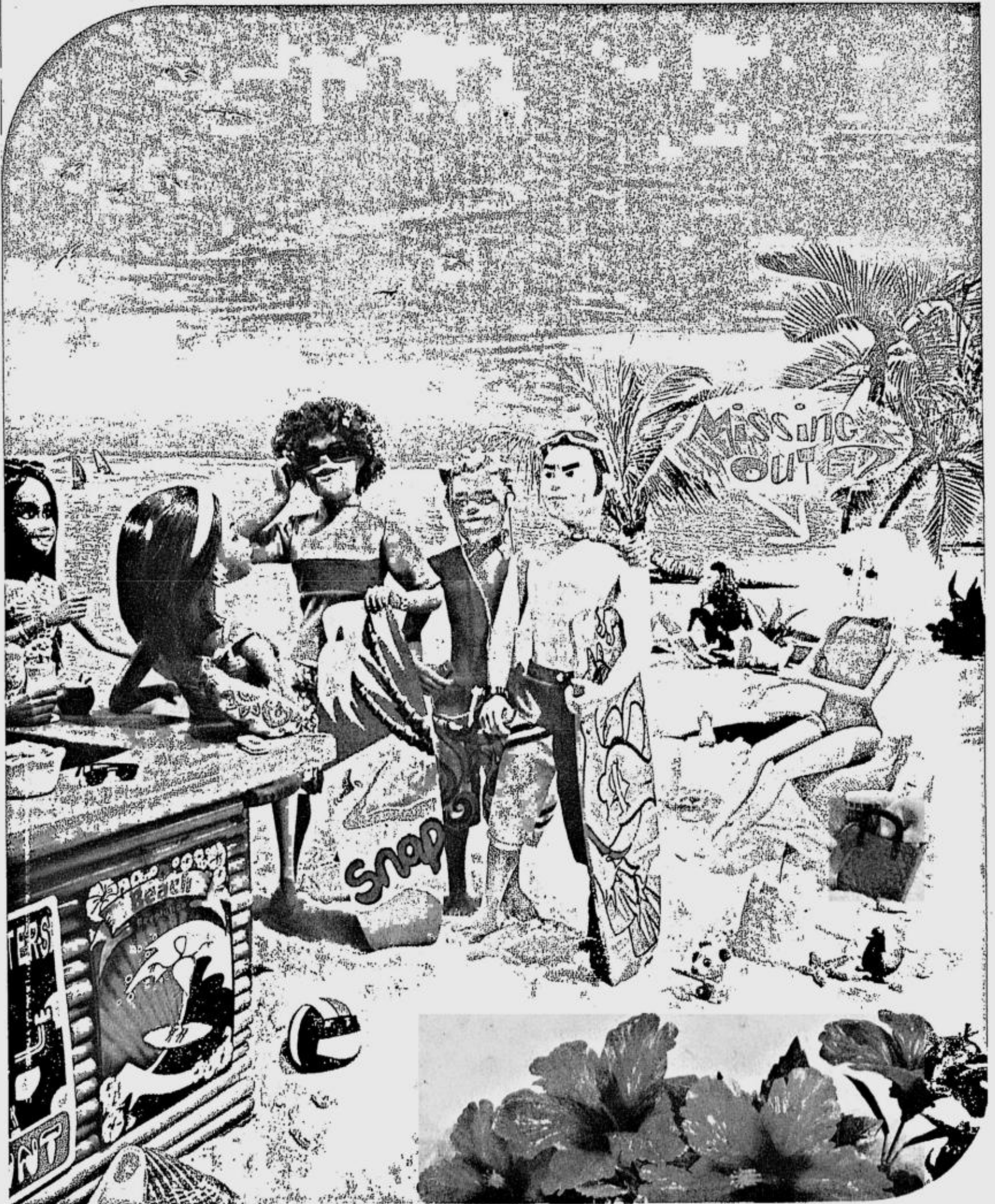
'Digital LG Challenge'

At 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 14, GMA-7's "Digital LG Challenge" fields students of Paref Southridge School and Colegio de Santa Monica de Angat in five exciting rounds of quizzes and puzzles. Pat Perez directs.

Movies on TV

On HBO, March 13 at 10:45 p.m., "The Gathering Storm." March 14 at 8:15 a.m., "The Majestic." March 15 at 7 p.m., "John Q." March 16 at 6:15 p.m., "With Honors." March 17 at 6:15 p.m., "The Pelican Brief." March 18 at 4:30 p.m., "The Browning Version." March 19 at 11:40 p.m., "The Foreigner."

On Cinemax, March 13 at 6:30 a.m., "Revelation." March 14 at 1:30 p.m., "City by the Sea." March 15 at 9 p.m., "The Age of Innocence." March 16 at 10:40 p.m., "The Godfather." March 17 at 6:30 a.m., "A Man for All Seasons." March 18 at 1:45 p.m., "The Prince and the Showgirl." March 19 at 7:30 a.m., "Rear Window."



Be part of the *in* crowd with the New Nokia 2300.

- Enhance your texting with Text Screening and Distribution Lists
- Manage your load with Text Message Counter
- Text your friends faster with SMS speed dialing
- Stay tuned with integrated FM radio
- Talk handsfree and listen to music with its powerful handsfree speaker
- Stay hip with changeable XpressOn™ color covers, keypads, animated screensavers and preloaded polyphonic ringtones

Get the new Nokia 2300, Nokia's Most Value-packed Phone, now!



NOKIA
2300

Hear It First

Know more @ www.nokia.com.ph. Specifications are subject to change without notice.

As an assurance of quality, purchase only from Authorized Nokia Dealers. For inquiries, email us at write_nokia@nokia.com

Rising Across Rockwell.



for announcement purposes only.



metropolitan

For as low as
P10,777 a month!

The only affordable premium residential condo.

When you want to have your place in the heart of the city, but not in its traffic. When you want to have the full range of sports and athletic amenities available, not just the usual token few. When you want to have the convenience of living near the mall, but not in it. And when you want to have it all at a reasonable and affordable price, and not have to pay for the moon.

Then it's time to check out The Metropolitan. A new premier residential condominium soon to rise on Estrella St. right across Rockwell, featuring its own sports resort and athletic club.

MAC
Metropolitan Atlantic City

Another landmark project of
PHILTOWN
A Subsidiary of RFM Corporation



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Redgrave's talent and commitment keep her at the top of her craft

By Behn Cervantes

THE ACTRESSES I admire most for their skill in acting and that indefinable X-plus factor are the ethereal Meryl Streep, the intense but vulnerable Glenn Close, the steely but poignant Joan Allen, and the incomparable Vanessa Redgrave.

Queen

The statuesque actress has played queen, bitch and old maid in Shakespearean, Greek and modern theater. She has also essayed impressive film roles that are forever etched in the minds of moviegoers.

I was introduced to her in Michelangelo Antonioni's "Blow Up" in 1966, although I had already read about her in Theater Arts Magazine, our theater bible in the '50s and '60s. Early on, English critics noted her great promise after she had graduated from London's Central School of Speech and Drama.

At 5'10", the statuesque blonde literally towered over her contemporaries. Besides, she had great thespic pedigree, being the eldest daughter of Sir Michael Redgrave and Dame Rachel Kempson, stalwarts of English theater.

Vanessa's acting genes were likewise manifest



REDGRAVE. Great thespic pedigree.

in younger siblings Lynn and brother Corin. The talented sisters would soon join the ranks of other well-known sisters in cinema, like Dorothy and Lilian Gish, Joan and Constance Bennett, and Olivia de Havilland and Joan Fontaine.

A son of director Joshua Logan, who was just about to meg a film version of the musical "Camelot," was so taken by Redgrave's delicate but sensuous beauty that he urged his father to quickly see "Blow-Up," where he would surely find the Guinevere he was hunt-

ing for. Sure enough, the veteran director immediately signed up Vanessa as Arthur's tragic queen for the epic film.

Vanessa married Royal Shakespeare Company resident director Tony Richardson in 1962, but divorced him on grounds of adultery in 1967 (Vanessa named Jeanne Moreau as co-respondent). The Richardsons had two beautiful daughters, Natasha and Joely Richardson, now accomplished actresses in their own right. In 1969, Vanessa bore Franco Nero a son.

Awards

She was nominated for the Best Actress Oscar for "Morgan," "Isadora," "Mary, Queen of Scots" and "The Bostonians." She was named Best Supporting Actress for "Julia" in 1977. This year, she won the Golden Globe for "The Gathering Storm."

Redgrave has remained an independent-minded actress who supports the cause of Palestine. She was arrested during a Ban-the-Bomb demonstration, led anti-Vietnam War marches on the US Embassy in London, expressed sympathy for the IRA, and supported Yasser Arafat's PLO.

Because she is so talented and fearlessly independent-minded, Jane Fonda named her daughter Vanessa, after her idol and co-star in the acclaimed film, "Julia."

Acting workshop to develop kids' potential

By Andy Bais

IN the course of his acclaimed theater career, director Nestor U. Torre has made a name for himself as an actor's director, encouraging both stars and new talents to come up with their best performances.

The name thespians Torre has directed include Mitch Valdes, Nora Aunor, Boots Anson Roa, Tommy Abuel, Behn Cervantes and Laurice Guillen.

New talents

Even more impressively, Torre has helped develop new talents who have gone on to flourishing careers in theater and entertainment, like Robert Sefia, Isay Alvarez, Pinky Marquez, Bimbo Cerrudo, Angelique Lazo, Rina Reyes and Jograd dela Torre.

In addition, Torre has also been developing even younger talents, child actors and singers as young as three years old, imbuing them with a love for performing that has sustained them throughout their careers.

In "Himala" ("The Miracle Worker" in Filipino), Torre guided then child star Janice de Belen to come up with a memorable performance as little Hellen Keller.

Challenging role

In the hit musical "Katyl," which Torre also directed to great acclaim, the important and challenging role of Katy de la Cruz as a child was played by Banig Roberto and Tennen Muñoz, two sensational performers who garnered raves and went on to perform in other shows.

It isn't easy training raw talents, but Torre makes it a point to do it because he believes in young peo-

ple's innate creativity, which the performing scene is in constant need of to keep itself fresh and vital.

Aside from the discipline and honing required, Torre stresses the sense of fun that performing should generate, both in young actors and also in their audience. This enjoyment comes naturally to

children once they've gotten over their shyness, so Torre makes it a point to include young performers in his plays and musicals.

That's why he was heartened when SNACK summer camp organizer Bibsy Carballo asked him to hold an acting workshop for boys and girls aged 7 to 13, from Friday, April 23 to Sunday, April 25, at St. John's Academy in San Juan, MM (near Pinaglabanan church).

Other aspects

Billed as "Aking na Aking," the "wonder weekend" workshop will tackle the basics of acting, singing and dancing, and offers an introduction to other aspects of theater and entertainment.

Guest resource speakers are popular TV children's show host Bodgie Pascua (for storytelling) and international singer and teacher Ramon "Monte" Acosymo (for music). Camp kays are actor-director Rito Asilo for dance, and this writer for singing. Call Ayi, Jenny or Alex at 721-0801, 726-7164 or cellphone 0917 899-1835.

There will be theater games and enjoyable improvisation sessions to bring out the young workshopers' individual strengths and weaknesses as performers. And a final showcase on April 25 will enable the young performers to share the fruits of what they've learned with their relatives and friends.



DE BELEN. Memorable as the young Hellen Keller.

Greater film literacy needed for young viewers

By Rica Arevalo

"MAGNIFICOS" Crystal Bear victory in the Kinderfilmfest (children's film festival) at the 54th Berlin International Film Festival last month opened our eyes to the development of the film literacy of the young cinemagoers of the world.

Stories

Maryo J. de los Reyes' film was judged by children 11-14 years old. On the Berlinale website, the children remarked, "This winning film moved us a lot because a whole range of feelings were shown so well. We were able to relate easily to the fascinating figures, and their stories affected us emotionally. This wonderful film was made even more intense by the great music and beautiful land-

scapes."

In Canada, they have the Sprockets Toronto International Film Festival for Children. Jury members come from the 8-12 age bracket. As part of the government's literacy program, the films are given graded recommendations for teachers to guide their students when selecting movies, especially in instances of foul language, emotionally difficult scenes, sexual situations, nudity or violence. Budding young filmmakers are invited to screen their works.

These countries respect this untapped child audience. But where do we stand? In the Philippines, one of the few instances of youths aged 12-17 doing animated videos was in a workshop conducted by Pinoy Animation at the old UP Film Center three years ago. Most of their films eventually

won in the Gawad CCP for Alternative Film and Video.

Visuals and sounds

Educational institutions should use films, either by watching or making them, because combining visuals and sounds adds vigor to teaching methods. If we develop an audience that inquires, questions and acts while watching films in a classroom setting, then more of us will be more critical in any decision we make in life.

Rather than groom our children to be the next new stars of reality TV contests, education is more important.

Literacy concerns everyone, and media education for children is something that we are taking for granted. Don't lose the entire youth audience!

Search for permanent solutions

IF we learn lessons from nature, we will see the impermanence of life. The sun rises and sets; flowers bloom and fade; tides rise and ebb.

Seasons

Just like the coming and going of the seasons, happiness and distress appear and disappear. You have money today; tomorrow you lose it. Now, your body is healthy; later, it will succumb to disease.

In the Bhagavad-gita, the Supreme Person states, "This impermanence arises from sense perception. One must learn to tolerate it without being disturbed. The person who is not disturbed by happiness and distress,

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

and is steady in both, is eligible for liberation.

A wise man does not cling to non-permanent realities and allow himself to be devastated by their appearance or disappearance.

He sees a higher purpose to

life—the search for permanent solutions to the miseries of this world. He seeks the lasting and eternal. Due to his determination to achieve the goal of human life, he remains strong and undisturbed by the flickering changes that come his way.

Wisdom

Problems come and go. Seek the truth and find the solution. The wise man can be of greatest help to others because he is not entangled by illusion, despair or lamentation. He is enlightened by spiritual wisdom, and is empowered by the Supreme!

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

PLDT's efficient staffers

WHEN I moved to my new studio in Bel-Air II, my biggest problem was how to transfer my two telephone lines from Dominga st. in Pasay City.

Request

PLDT's senior media senior manager Horace A. Lavidas called Jun Sambalilo, senior publications assistant of PLDT Media, to take care of my request. He immediately acted by sending e-mail notices to Dada Nogoy of the TeleServices Division in PLDT Sampaloc, Rolly Lee of PLDT Malate Business Zone in Manila, and Francis Balolong of Jupiter Business Zone in Makati.

They acted swiftly, though the task was not easy. Within the day, my lines were installed without delay due to the efficiency shown by these

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

PLDT staffers. My deepest thanks to all of them!

Photoworkshop

Our Digital Photo Workshop scheduled for March 13 and 20, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. will discuss tips on good photography and lighting. Call 896-3208 and 899-1767 or email mn_photocoom@l-manila.com.ph



YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM MARCH 13 - MARCH 14									
CH	6:00	7:00	8:00	9:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	1:00	2:00
6:00 Star in A Million	6:00 Concert at the Park	5:30 PBA Games	6:00 Search for a Star	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulo	6:00 Oponyon at Desisyon	6:00 Baywatch	6:00 Agria Reports	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy	9:00 Sing Galing	7:00 Intimidator	7:00 7 Days	7:00 Bag	7:00 Game Plan	6:30 Screen Savers	9:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Home Along da Airport	8:00 Search for the 1st Tansday	10:00 Lente	8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap	8:00 John Doe	7:30 9-Ball Tridor	7:30 The Amazing Race	7:30 Euromaxx	10:00 Music Videos	
9:00 Victim	Billiards Player	11:00 Musical Specials	9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures	9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse	9:00 Nana	8:30 Boston Public	8:00 Car Guys	11:00 Music Videos	
9:30 Buttercup		Ja Rule/Sum 41	10:30 Celebrity Turns	11:00 PGMA	10:00 String og Hearts	9:30 Studio 23 Presents	9:30 DWTV Journal		
10:30 Kontrabansyal			11:30 Flash Report		11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	11:30 Reel Deal	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
11:30 "I"			12:00 Master Showman				10:00 Pasugo		
12:00 "Sports Unlimited"									
5:30 Sharon	6:00 Asian Boxing	5:30 PBA Games	5:30 Partners Met & Jay	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling	6:00 Home Shopping Network	6:00 Sponge Bob	6:00 Captured	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
7:00 Star Circle Quest	Championship	9:00 Viva Cine Idols	7:00 Ki	7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not	7:00 Japan Video Topics	6:30 Mr Bean	6:30 Fresh Gear	9:00 Music Videos	
8:00 Basta! Kasama Kita	9:00 Go For Gold	Mauna Ka Susunod Ako	8:30 Daddy Di Do Du	8:00 May Puso ang Balas	10:00 In the Corner	7:00 Exposed	7:00 Convergence	10:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Marina	11:00 Unlimited Diving	11:00 Speed	9:30 Sunday Night Box Office	9:00 Sunday's Big Event	11:00 MTV Filter	8:00 Spin City	7:30 Euromaxx	11:00 Music Videos	
9:30 24			11:20 Flash Report	11:00 URRAC TV	11:30 El Snaddel	8:30 Just Shoot Me	8:00 New Yankee Workshop		
10:00 Sunday Family Cinema			11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents			9:00 Wit & Grace	8:30 DWTV Journal		
11:30 Dong Puno Tonight						9:30 The West Wing	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
12:00 The Weekend News						10:30 Digital Tour	10:00 Ang Igitas ni Crislo		
						11:00 Crossing Over with John			
6:00 TV Patrol	6:00 Concert at the Park	6:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Invader Zim	8:00 NBA	6:00 The Chronicle	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
7:00 Star Circle Quest	7:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:30 Bahang-Bahla	7:00 Extra Challenge	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	10:30 IBC News Tonight	7:00 Bully	6:30 World Report	9:00 Music Videos	
8:00 Basta! Kasama Kita	8:00 TeleDyaryo	7:00 E.R.	7:30 Twin Hearts	7:00 Just for Laughs	11:00 Linawin Natin	9:00 Charmed	6:30 World Report	10:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Marina	10:00 Family Rosary Crusade	8:00 Guinness World Records	8:00 To Amo	8:00 Jag		10:00 News Central	7:00 Opeline	11:00 Music Videos	
9:00 Sana'y Wala Hang Wakas		9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel	8:30 Love Letter	9:00 The Agency		10:30 Oprah	7:30 Euromaxx		
9:30 It Might Be You		10:00 IHO TV	9:00 Hanggang Kailan	10:00 Newswatch Now		11:30 Travel Time	8:00 Convergence		
10:00 OK Fine! Whatever		10:15 The Big News	9:30 Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita	10:30 Sex & the City			8:30 DWTV Journal		
11:00 Insider		10:45 Mad TV	11:00 Saksi	11:00 Aler			9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
11:30 The Correspondents			11:30 I-Witness				10:00 Pasugo		
6:00 TV Patrol	6:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Invader Zim	6:00 Game Channel	6:00 The Chronicle	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
7:00 Star Circle Quest	7:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:30 Bahang-Bahla	7:00 Extra Challenge	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	7:00 DMZ TV	7:00 Balmat Animated	6:30 World Report	9:00 Music Videos	
8:00 Basta! Kasama Kita	8:00 TeleDyaryo	7:00 Vna Box Office	7:30 Twin Hearts	7:00 Ed	8:00 Global Family Series	7:30 Balmat Beyond	6:30 World Report	10:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Marina	10:00 Wron Philippines	9:00 Angeli na Walang Langit	8:00 To Amo	8:00 Ally McBeal	9:00 Entrenpy	8:00 Smallville	7:00 Opeline	11:00 Music Videos	
9:00 Sana'y Wala Hang Wakas	11:00 Auto Focus	9:00 Wow Mali	8:30 Love Letter	9:00 Specials	9:30 MTV Filter	9:00 Fast Lane	7:30 Euromaxx		
9:30 It Might Be You		10:00 IHO TV	9:00 Hanggang Kailan	10:00 Newswatch Now	10:00 Travel	10:00 News Central	8:00 Screen Savers Edit A		
10:00 Basta Si Mister, Basta Si Miss		10:15 The Big News	9:30 Ait Together Now	10:30 Newswatch Now	10:30 IBC News Tonight	10:30 Oprah	8:30 DWTV Journal		
11:00 Insider		10:45 Headline	11:00 Saksi	10:30 Girls Behaving Badly	11:00 Up Close and Personal	11:30 Twilight Zone	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
11:30 Pops!		11:30 Working	11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	11:00 Board Tru			10:00 Pasugo		
6:00 TV Patrol	6:00 Phil Land Admin Docu	6:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Invader Zim	6:00 Global Family Series	6:00 The Chronicle	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
7:00 Star Circle Quest	7:00 The Working President	6:30 Bahang-Bahla	7:00 Extra Challenge	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	7:00 Linawin Natin (replay)	7:00 Balmat Animated	6:30 World Report	9:00 Music Videos	
8:00 Basta! Kasama Kita	7:00 Ugnayang Pantansa	7:00 PBA Games	7:30 Twin Hearts	7:00 Malcolm in the Middle	10:00 BYK 101	7:30 Balmat Beyond	6:30 World Report	10:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Marina	8:00 TeleDyaryo	9:30 On-Air	8:00 To Amo	7:30 Shit Standing	10:30 IBC News Tonight	8:00 CSI	7:00 Opeline	11:00 Music Videos	
9:00 Sana'y Wala Hang Wakas	10:00 Family Rosary Crusade	10:00 IHO TV	8:30 Love Letter	8:00 Simple Rules	11:00 Breaking Barriers	9:00 Alas	7:30 Euromaxx		
9:30 It Might Be You		10:15 The Big News	9:00 Hanggang Kailan	9:00 Scouts		10:00 News Central	8:00 Fresh Gear		
10:00 Whattamen		10:45 Video Hit Parade	9:30 Nuts Entertainment	9:00 Everwood		10:30 Oprah	8:30 DWTV Journal		
11:00 Insider		11:30 Normal Ohio	11:00 Saksi	10:00 Newswatch Now		11:30 The Cory Quirino Show	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
11:30 Special Assignment			11:30 Delate	10:30 Girls Behaving Badly			10:00 The Message		
6:00 TV Patrol	6:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Invader Zim	6:00 Game Channel	6:00 The Chronicle	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
7:00 Star Circle Quest	7:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:30 Bahang-Bahla	7:00 Extra Challenge	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	7:00 NBA	7:00 Mr Bean	6:30 World Report	9:00 Music Videos	
8:00 Basta! Kasama Kita	8:00 TeleDyaryo	7:00 PBA Games	7:30 Twin Hearts	7:00 Just for Laughs	10:30 IBC News Tonight	7:30 Ang Boyfriend Ko	6:30 World Report	10:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Marina	10:00 Family Rosary Crusade	9:30 On-Air	8:00 To Amo	8:00 Jag	11:00 Oponyon at Desisyon	8:00 Barkada Nights	7:00 Opeline	11:00 Music Videos	
9:00 Sana'y Wala Hang Wakas		10:00 IHO TV	8:30 Love Letter	9:00 The Agency		9:00 Alas	7:30 Euromaxx		
9:30 It Might Be You		10:15 The Big News	9:00 Hanggang Kailan	10:00 Newswatch Now		10:00 News Central	8:00 Screen Savers Edit B		
10:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya		10:45 Video Hit Parade	9:30 Nuts Entertainment	10:30 Newswatch Now		10:30 Oprah	8:30 DWTV Journal		
11:00 Insider		11:30 Normal Ohio	11:00 Saksi	10:30 Girls Behaving Badly		11:30 Twilight Zone	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
11:30 Dong Puno Live			11:30 Delate	11:00 Board Tru			10:00 Pasugo		
6:00 TV Patrol	6:00 Paco Park Presents	6:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	6:15 Frontpage	6:00 Invader Zim	6:00 Laxbay TV	6:00 The Chronicle	6:00 Net 25 Report	6:00 RJ Music Videos	
7:00 Star Circle Quest	7:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:30 Bahang-Bahla	7:00 Extra Challenge	6:30 Entertainment Tonight	8:00 CelebrityDailCom	7:00 X-Men Evolution	6:30 World Report	9:00 Music Videos	
8:00 Basta! Kasama Kita	8:00 TeleDyaryo	7:00 PBA Games	7:30 Twin Hearts	7:00 Just for Laughs	9:00 Entrenpy (replay)	7:30 Justice League	6:30 World Report	10:00 Music Videos	
8:30 Marina	10:00 The Working President	9:30 Single	8:00 To Amo	8:00 Jag	9:30 Good Lake (replay)	8:00 Mutant X	7:00 Opeline	11:00 Music Videos	
9:00 Sana'y Wala Hang Wakas	11:00 Pilapag Ngayon Hal	10:00 IHO TV	8:30 Love Letter	9:00 Enterprise	10:00 MTV Filter	9:00 The Bachelorette	7:30 Euromaxx		
9:30 It Might Be You		10:15 The Big News	9:00 Hanggang Kailan	9:00 Dead Zone	10:30 IBC News Tonight	10:00 News Central	8:00 Auto Motor and Sports		
10:00 Star Cinema Presents		10:45 Friday Box Office	9:30 Bubba Gang	10:00 Newswatch Now	11:00 GMA The Working President	10:30 Oprah	8:30 DWTV Journal		
11:00 Insider		Jesus (Part I)	11:00 Saksi	10:30 TV Greats on Friday		11:30 Twilight Zone	9:00 Ang Tamang Daan		
11:30 Private I			11:30 Emergency				10:00 The Message		

This is the sort of thing that was also attempted recently on the cable show, "Faking." But the would-be impersonator there was rigorously trained for three whole weeks, whereas the "At Home

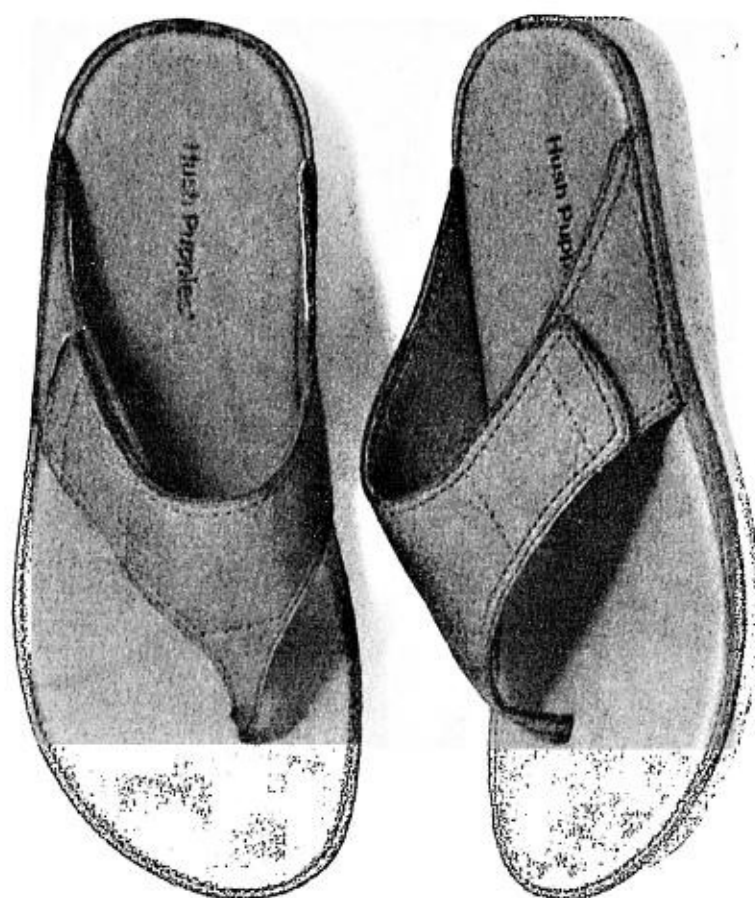
On the show's change of orientation in terms of target audience: We understand

After all, she has developed a good following without having to excessively compro-

In any case, the show's adjusted format should be given time to work itself out from week to week. But we hope that, at the end of the process, Charlene's signature persona will remain intact.

GONZALEZ. New orientation.

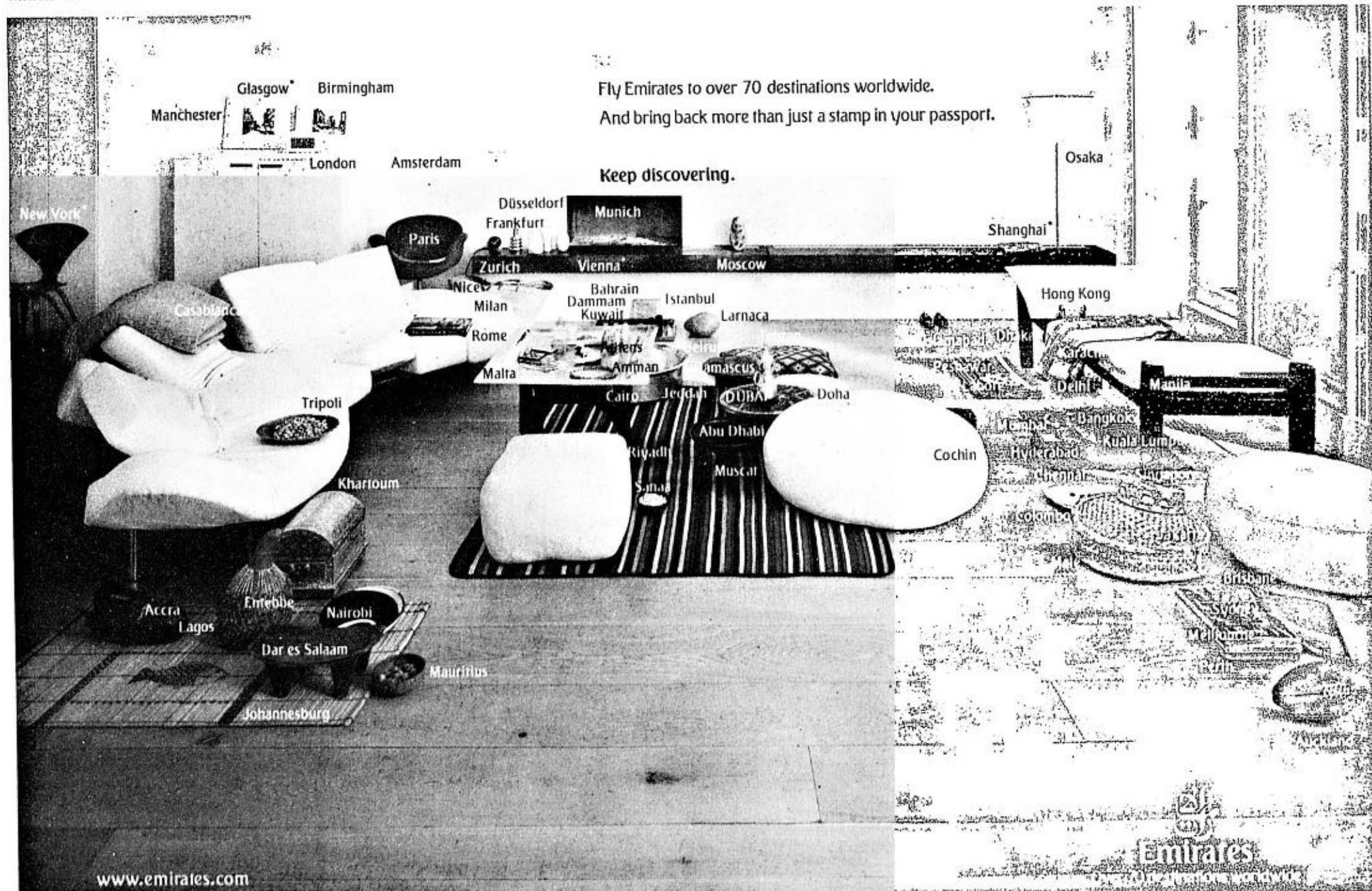
SynergyMed
CENTRAL
BEST CARE. BEST THE EAST AND WEST CAN OFFER.
Discovery Suites, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center,
Pasig City, Philippines
E-mail: www.fp-synergymed.com



Antiqued, tumbled leather thong sandals with deep
foam footbed in honey, sage, red and black. **PIVOT**

Hush Puppies®

SM CITY (Fairview, Southmall, Lucena, Pangasinan, Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan De Oro, Davao, Marikina) • SM DEPARTMENT STORES (provincial divisions, Metro East, Banting Cebu, Dasmariñas, Lipa) • ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORES • AYALA CENTER CEBU • FESTIVAL MALL • EVER



* Planned routes for 2004. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on tel. (632) 811 5278 or fax (632) 811 5284. Discover frequent flyer benefits at www.skywards.com



We've just added another feather to our cap.

INQUIRER Badminton

Get your copies from your favorite courts.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GLOBE PREPAID'S MOST AFFORDABLE PHONEKITS THIS MONTH!

Grab the phone that fits your style and budget!

Nokia 2100
P5,390

- Animated Screen Saver
- Photo Insert Cover
- Countdown Timer

with **FREE** hands-free headset

Photo period: March 5 to April 30, 2004. Prepaid Card Permit No. 0015, Series of 2004.

Sony Ericsson T230
P7,690

- 32 Polyphonic Tones
- 4,096 Color Display
- MMS & GPRS capable

Nokia 3315
P3,790

- Picture Editor
- Multiple SMS
- Countdown Timer

Sony Ericsson T100
P4,490

- Text Messaging with Pictures and Sounds
- Downloadable Pictures and Sounds
- Picture Phonebook

Nokia 1100
P6,390

- Animated Screen Saver
- Text Messaging with Pictures and Sounds
- Built-in Flashlight

NEW!
Motorola C201
P3,490

- Comes with Motorola digital 27 Ringtones
- IAP Predictive Texting
- Emotions

Panasonic G50
P8,990

- 4,096 Color Display
- Super Mini (weighs 75g)
- Polyphonic Tones
- WAP/EMS

Samsung C100
P8,690

- 65,536 Color Display
- JAVA-ready
- GPRS-capable
- 40 Polyphonic Tones

Nokia 3100
P9,990

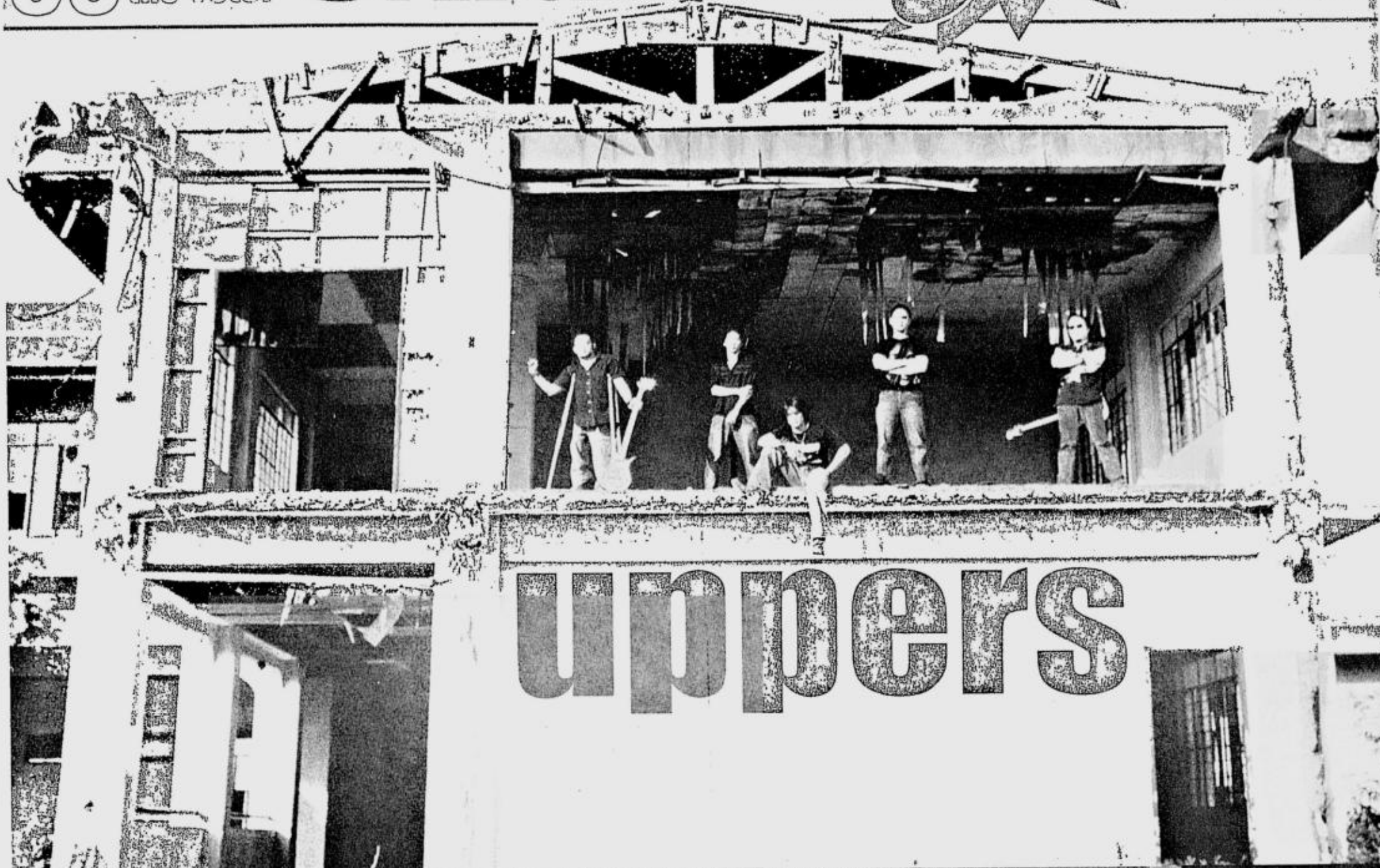
- 4,096 Color Display
- MMS-capable
- JAVA-ready
- Polyphonic Tones

Just call Globe Direct at 751-8888 to have your Globe Prepaid phonekit delivered to your doorstep for **FREE!**

Also available at all Globe Telecom Business Centers and dealers nationwide.

making great things possible

Globe
HANDYPHONE



Tata page H2
to the top

Diether's addiction
to **Blow** page G2

Christ's Passion
reviewed page H4

Produced by TIM YAP
Photography: STEVE TIRONA
Photo assistants:
MARCUS MAGUIGAD
and ALBERT GENATO
Cover Star: BLOW

Mallwide Sale

March 12 to 14

March 19 to 21

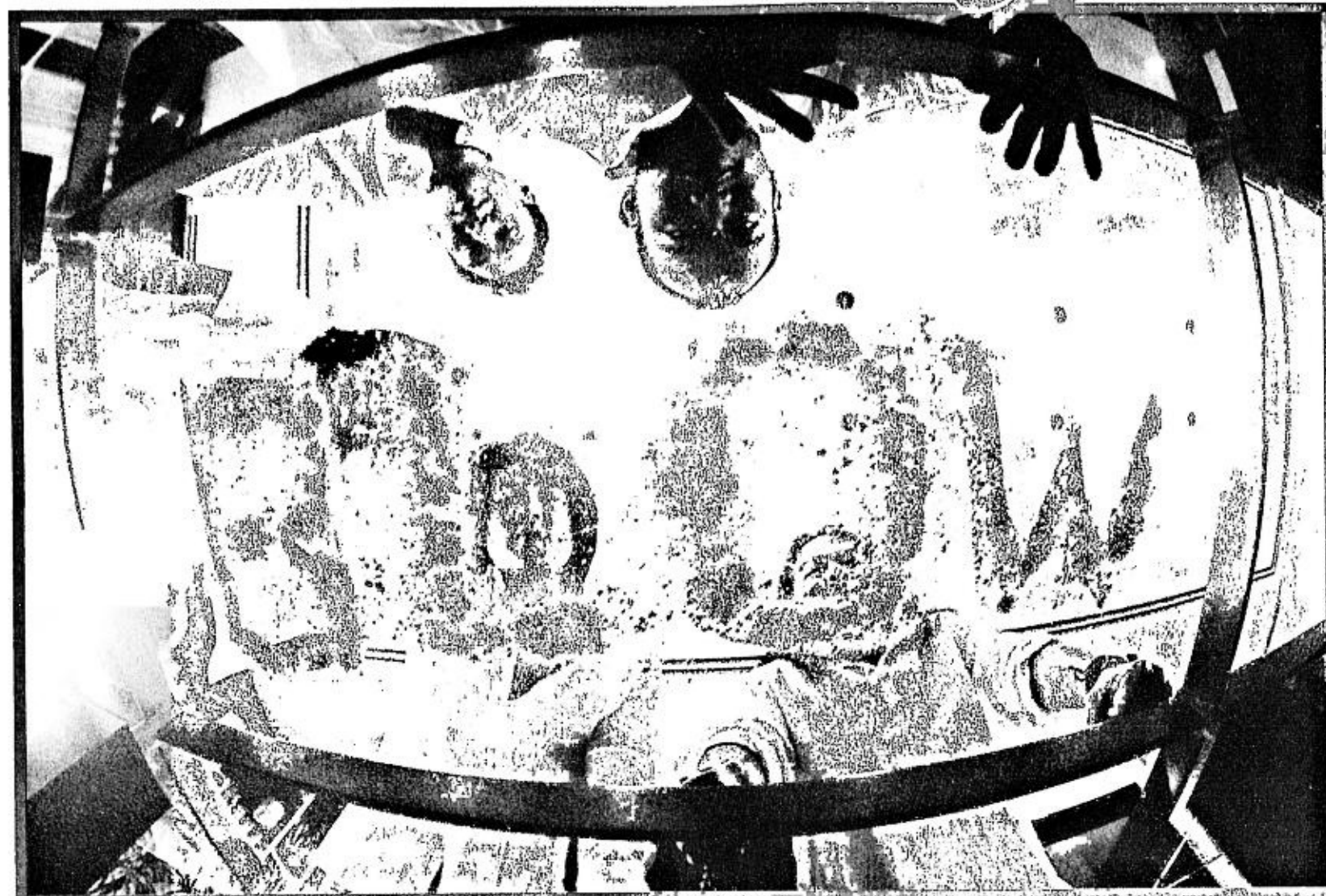
March to Town



Huge discounts await you this month at the Alabang Town Center. Over 100 stores are participating in this mallwide event. Make a run for the Sports and Hobbies section to enjoy their special discount rates. Enjoy as much as 70% off on items from Nothing But Water, Rudy Project, Olympic World, Bike System and many more.

Lov'emall!

Step into the Activity Center for a Car Exhibit on March 12 to 14 and the Anson's Appliance Fair on March 19 to 21. There will also be a live concert by Keith Martin on March 20 at 7 pm for entertainment. So, bring the whole troop! For inquiries, call our Customer Service Hotline: 842 2782.



Plus, he didn't want to be identified with a show biz guy.

Diet verbalized his feelings: "I don't want any special treatment, I just want to be one of you guys."

The band members rebutted with the alacrity of anti-FPJ lobbyists: "Okay, how are we gonna do that?"

Equal treatment

"I was apprehensive from the very start that we might not get respect since the leader of the band was from show biz," Diether says. "I said maybe we should record an album. We scouted for recording companies, but no one would sign us."

Diether's friend Mondo, lead vocalist of Pin Up Girls, encouraged him to produce their own album, saying that people should first hear Blow's music before they sit up and serious attention.

They saved up. Fifty percent of their fees from gigs went to the album fund. In less than a year they had all the materials they needed to produce an album.

So they wrote their own songs. Diet would hum the melody, Kessenth would play it on the guitar. Together they put in the words. The result? Their first album: "Blow—nice and hard."

It didn't go unnoticed. Michael Sutton of Washington-based Know It All records signed up Blow to a distribution deal for the US of A. They are going to record the material here, which will then be sent to Seattle, then marketed around the States. Not bad at all.

"This gives me so much freedom," Diether gushes. "In show biz we sometimes have to do the 'Ocho-Ocho' routine and we can't say no."

Nowadays, the band is busy with gigs around town—from Ratsky's (they're the only rock band that performs in this show band venue) to Rock Radio in Alabang—plus some out-of-town bookings.

How long do they plan to do Blow?

Their unanimous response: "As long as we have the passion for our music, we'll stick to it."

Diether Ocampo's addiction to **BLOW**

Photos by Steve Tirona

"**T**HEY'RE different worlds—rock and show biz—they don't mix," a well-meaning friend once told Diether Ocampo when he and some buddies were just forming the band now known as Blow.

Glitz biz denizens still get a jolt when they learn that Diet is part of an alternative rock band: "What? You are in a band? Are you sure?"

But Diether has his own way of being stubborn. In fact, the longer one knows him, the more one realizes that there is more to the guy than meets the eye. He is a bundle of surprises.

Actress Mylene Dizon recalls the time they were beginning their show biz careers. "We were doing a workshop exercise. We needed to curse everyone in sight. Diet got up and, at the top of his lungs, shouted, 'T*=g-ina ny-balang araw, sisikat ako (I'll be famous someday)!' At the time, she recalls, they all took it with a grain of salt. Now when she looks back, she feels proud of her colleague for

Tim Yap



having the guts to pursue whatever it is he wanted to do.

Childhood rockers

Diet has been jamming with this buddy Jasper Ong since their college days. The band was their idea.

He says music was a big part of his growing up years. "My father used to have a band—at that time it was called a combo. We were staying in Cavite and I was five or six years old. I watched him perform all the time."

One night when Diet and friends were hanging out at Flute in Makati, bar owner Christine San Diego told them the regular band had canceled for a whole month and that she needed a filler badly. "Why don't you just get us?" Diet said, only half in jest.

And so they had their first gig at

Flute: two guitarists, a percussionist, and a vocalist. "You don't sound bad at all!" Christine exclaimed and booked them.

Blow is composed of Emil Buencamino on drums, Kessenth Cheng on lead guitar, Caloy Mojica on bass, Jasper Ong on percussion and back-up vocals, and Diet on lead vocals.

Johnny come lately

What's with the name?

"We wanted something unique and hard to pronounce," Diet recalls. "We came up with Quadratuslomborum. But only a few people in the medical field knew what it meant."

Diet also likes hosting DVD fests in his Quezon City pad. Unknown to a lot of people, he has a big collection of original art films—from classics to independent features to cult favorites. Once they watched the Johnny Depp movie, "Blow." It sounded good to them. "Coz it can't be cocaine, right?" Diether says matter-of-factly.

It wasn't smooth sailing all the way. The invited musicians were hesitant. Kessenth thought at first that Diether was a rapper.

The band used

to be called

Quadratuslomborum

because its

members

wanted a name

that was hard

to pronounce



BEST COPY AVAILABLE



Plus, he didn't want to be identified with a show biz guy.

Diet verbalized his feelings: "I don't want any special treatment, I just want to be one of you guys."

The band members rebutted with the alacrity of anti-FPJ lobbyists: "Okay, how are we gonna do that?"

Equal treatment

"I was apprehensive from the very start that we might not get respect since the leader of the band was from show biz," Diether says. "I said maybe we should record an album. We scouted for recording companies, but no one would sign us."

Diether's friend Mondo, lead vocalist of Pin Up Girls, encouraged him to produce their own album, saying that people should first hear Blow's music before they sit up and serious attention.

They saved up. Fifty percent of their fees from gigs went to the album fund. In less than a year they had all the materials they needed to produce an album.

So they wrote their own songs. Diet would hum the melody, Kessenth would play it on the guitar. Together they put in the words. The result? Their first album: "Blow—nice and hard."

It didn't go unnoticed. Michael Sutton of Washington-based Know It All records signed up Blow to a distribution deal for the US of A. They are going to record the material here, which will then be sent to Seattle, then marketed around the States. Not bad at all.

"This gives me so much freedom," Diether gushes. "In show biz we sometimes have to do the 'Ocho-Ocho' routine and we can't say no."

Nowadays, the band is busy with gigs around town—from Ratsky's (they're the only rock band that performs in this show band venue) to Rock Radio in Alabang—plus some out-of-town bookings.

How long do they plan to do Blow?

Their unanimous response: "As long as we have the passion for our music, we'll stick to it."

Diether Ocampo's addiction to **BLOW**

Photos by Steve Tirona

"THEY'RE different worlds—rock and show biz—they don't mix," a well-meaning friend once told Diether Ocampo when he and some buddies were just forming the band now known as Blow.

Glitz biz denizens still get a jolt when they learn that Diet is part of an alternative rock band: "What? You are in a band? Are you sure?"

But Diether has his own way of being stubborn. In fact, the longer one knows him, the more one realizes that there is more to the guy than meets the eye. He is a bundle of surprises.

Actress Mylene Dizon recalls the time they were beginning their show biz careers. "We were doing a workshop exercise. We needed to curse everyone in sight. Diet got up and, at the top of his lungs, shouted, 'T*=g-ina ny-balang araw, sisikat ako (I'll be famous someday)!' At the time, she recalls, they all took it with a grain of salt. Now when she looks back, she feels proud of her colleague for

Tim Yap



having the guts to pursue whatever it is he wanted to do.

Childhood rockers

Diet has been jamming with this buddy Jasper Ong since their college days. The band was their idea.

He says music was a big part of his growing up years. "My father used to have a band—at that time it was called a combo. We were staying in Cavite and I was five or six years old. I watched him perform all the time."

One night when Diet and friends were hanging out at Flute in Makati, bar owner Christine San Diego told them the regular band had canceled for a whole month and that she needed a filler badly. "Why don't you just get us?" Diet said, only half in jest.

And so they had their first gig at

Flute: two guitarists, a percussionist, and a vocalist. "You don't sound bad at all!" Christine exclaimed and booked them.

Blow is composed of Emil Buencamino on drums, Kessenth Cheng on lead guitar, Caloy Mojica on bass, Jasper Ong on percussion and back-up vocals, and Diet on lead vocals.

Johnny come lately

What's with the name?

"We wanted something unique and hard to pronounce," Diet recalls. "We came up with Quadratuslomborum. But only a few people in the medical field knew what it meant."

Diet also likes hosting DVD fests in his Quezon City pad. Unknown to a lot of people, he has a big collection of original art films—from classics to independent features to cult favorites. Once they watched the Johnny Depp movie, "Blow." It sounded good to them. "Coz it can't be cocaine, right?" Diether says matter-of-factly.

It wasn't smooth sailing all the way. The invited musicians were hesitant. Kessenth thought at first that Diether was a rapper.

The band used to be called Quadratuslomborum because its members wanted a name that was hard to pronounce



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Manic panic

"THIS country sucks!"

I'm hearing this more and more lately, more often than I have in the past. People around me say it all the time, in many different ways.

"It doesn't matter who I vote for; things will never get better here."

"I've stopped reading the papers, every day just brings bad news."

"I've applied for my United States visa already. I'd rather take my chances there."

It seems the general perception is that we live in a toilet bowl where the water is spiraling downward into the septic tank that is hell.

Sometimes, when the devil on my left shoulder gets louder than the angel on my right, I end up contributing to the collective shriek of pain.

Just this week some friends were shooting a music video in my house, which happens to be in a part of Makati that is, well, far from glamorous. Before the day ended, 20 cops showed up, demanding grease money. For what?

SWAK!

by Lex



They insisted that allowing a film crew inside my own house required a permit. But, they said, for the bargain basement price of P2,000 they were willing to look the other way. Needless to say, the *buwayas* went away empty-handed. I'd rather rot in jail.

After years of encountering corrupt police officers, I have learned one thing. The moment they realize that you are not willing fork over, they usually back off. This is only because they are lazy. Rather than filing some bogus police report against you, they'd rather stalk easier prey.

Show biz vultures

The world behind the bright lights

reeks of the same rot. I've seen enough to know that the casting couch is still very much a staple in the industry. And many so-called talent managers are really just pimps or sexual abusers in disguise.

In my mind the million-dollar question has always been: How do people get this way? I was lucky enough to be sent to the Ateneo University for high school and De La Salle for college. On graduation day, I gleaned so much honor in the eyes of my peers. That's why I am perplexed every time I turn on the TV and see esteemed graduates of the same noble universities milking the country dry. When did these good kids become the corrupt predators that now run the world?

These existential questions will surely not be answered with finality in this article. However, I offer my own humble hypothesis. I think that people succumb to the dark side a little at a time. They start with small concessions—the this-is-so-small-no-one-will-notice kind. Slowly, a point is reached where it's im-

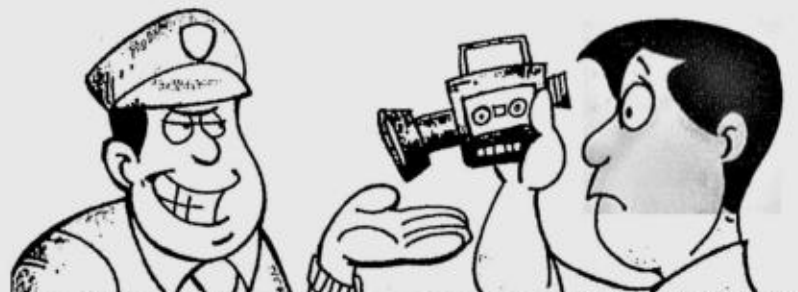


ILLUSTRATION BY ANTHONY MISTADES

possible to turn back.

Hope springs eternal

For the record I am not Deepak Oprah, the bringer of light. Still, despite the dismal surroundings I sometimes find myself in, there are always sparks of hope that encourage me to keep fighting.

We are one of the few countries in the world where you will never find an old person standing up in a bus or a train. I always smile to myself when, every single time anyone over 60 walks into the MRT coach, several people immediately stand up, saying almost simultaneously, "Upo po kayo, lola (please take a seat, grandma)."

Here, rich and poor alike enjoy

karaoke machines with which they can sing to their hearts' content. The love for love as expressed in cheesy ballads, and the love for music as illustrated in simply humming along with the radio through the work day, unite eighty-two million Pinoyos.

These are some of the simple joys that make me proud to be a Filipino.

Every person reading this column who vows never to talk shit about the Philippines and the so-called hopeless state we're in is already doing something to make a difference. After all, victory, like corruption, is obtained a little at a time.

(E-mail me my proud kababayans at swak1@info.com.ph!)



WHERE'S THE LOVE? Miguel with Black Eyed Peas



HANGING out with MTV VJ KC Montero



LUCKY, lucky. With Michelle Branch

OUTSIDE the venue

'Working' at the MTV Asia Awards

By Miguel Santos
Contributor

I SPENT Valentine's Day watching the MTV Asia Awards ... live. Was I excited? Hell, yeah! My other single friends would be stuck in Manila trying to find last-minute dates, while I got to see Michelle Branch in her first-ever Kylie Minogue-style outfit ... up close and personal.

Though most people thought the lineup this year was less stellar than the last, the event proved to be just as good ... and I'm not speaking only about the actual awards show. I spent five days in the Lion City to work. What constituted "work" for me there? Celebrity interviews. Yep, I know ... it's a tough job, but somebody had to do it.

No, seriously. It wasn't a piece of cake at all, because I had to deal with superstar egos and the other negatives associated with celebrity and the music biz. But it was an experience I know I'll always look fondly back on.

Every MTV channel across Asia sent representatives. I was picked to represent the Philippines for the artist interviews. I arrived in Singapore on Wednesday with VJ KC Montero and our boss, Executive Producer Robert Quebral. I honestly wasn't thinking of the celebrities I would meet when the plane touched down ... I was just so happy to be there. It was my first trip ever to Singapore. KC and I wasted no time after checking into the hotel. We went out to explore the immediate surroundings and had a few drinks. The next day was the start of two days of celebrity interviews at the Fullerton Hotel for KC and me. As a producer, I couldn't afford to be star struck, but sometimes I wished I could just be the wide-eyed spectator I used to be.

Blue was our first subject. It didn't start smoothly because one member came really late, every artist after them was pushed back. What can I say about my first encounter with Blue? Well, I think celebrity had gotten to their heads. Javier, the newest R&B singer on the block, was a pleasure to interview. He was very accommodating and even sang a bit of his song "Crazy" for us. Simple Plan was pretty cool as well, though they seemed like they'd rather be doing something else because they were restless. We ended our first day with the Malaysian rap duo Too Phat. KC was already tight with the two, having met them before, so there wasn't a problem.

Friday, the second and last day, was better. First up were the Sugababes. They were a fun and friendly group. One member, Mutya, is part-Filipina, but never immersed herself in

Pinoy culture. At least she knew one Filipino sentence: "Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat." Gareth Gates was very shy and seemed like he was still adjusting to his newfound celebrity. Vanness Wu was the opposite of Gareth. He exuded confidence, thankfully not overconfidence, but pretty close. KC had met Michelle Branch in Manila a few years ago, so when it was our turn with her, they were like two old friends catching up, on and off cam.

The old phrase "saving the best for last" applied to our last interview, the Black Eyed Peas. They were the most energetic and fun artists and radiated genuine warmth, a quality often imitated by artists but not truly felt. It is common knowledge that one of the Peas, Apl De Ap is half-Filipino. KC and I said we were from the Philippines. Apl De Ap appeared to have instant bond with whoever is from the motherland. He and the rest of the Peas talked about their permanent connection with the Philippines. Meeting an internationally successful Filipino proud of his roots is truly a refreshing experience.

Catching the awards live on Saturday, on Valentine's Day, was definitely better than watching it back home. Television sometimes doesn't do justice to shows really meant to be seen live—although yes, there were some dragging moments; most award shows routinely fall into that trap. Both audience and artists were energetic, so despite the absence of major stars in the vein of Beyonce and Outkast, the show was better than expected. Simple Plan and the Black Eyed Peas generated the most excitement that sustained the energy till the very end of the three-hour show. In the back of my mind, I imagined my friends going on their usual Valentine dinner dates in the same places in Manila. For once, I actually pitied them.

Besides "work," it was fun just hanging out with KC and Robert, people I never thought I'd be working with two years ago when I was still in college. KC and I were roommates and whenever we were free, we shot stuff around the city with a mini-DV camera. Some of the footage will be seen on MTV. Though KC may seem larger than life to those who only know him as a celebrity, he's a friend you can count on. I know a couple of single girl friends that would've loved to trade places with me. You should've seen the way the girls in Singapore swooned over KC. He was more popular than some of the artists on the red carpet ... and rightfully so.

Did I work hard while in Singapore? Yes, I did... I worked hard to make this experience an excellent one. It was my best Valentine's Day ever.

(Miguel Santos is an Associate Producer at MTV Philippines. He produces "MTV Jams," "Be Seen @ MTV," and "MTV Lokal.")

alegre
BEACH RESORT

Relax and be pampered in Alegre's beautiful tropical setting...

ALEGRE ESCAPADE

For only Php 2,420.00++ per person per night (twin sharing)

Inclusions:

Deluxe accommodation
Round trip land transfers
Welcome drinks upon arrival
Fruit platter
Buffet breakfast

Sunset cruise with a chance to see whales and dolphins (subject to space availability and weather conditions)

Extra person charge of Ps1,250++ per person per night (accommodation only)

Offer is valid up to December 20, 2004
For balikbayans, local and foreign residents (except for peak periods)
Check in time: 2:00 pm
Check out time: 12:00 noon

For Reservations call
Cebu Sales and Reservations Office
2nd Floor, Cebu City Waterfront Hotel, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City
Tel. No. (63)(32) 2311198 or (63)(32) 2326888 local 8918
Fax No. (63)(32) 2337944
e-mail: cbusales@alegrebeachresort.com

or
Alegre Beach Resort
Calumboyán, Sogod, Island of Cebu Philippines 6007
Tel. No. (63)(32) 2556388 / 2549800 / 2549811 / 2549822
Fax No. (63)(32) 2549833
e-mail: guest@alegrebeachresort.com

or
Manila Sales and Reservations Office
14th Fl. The Centerpoint Condominium Cor. Julia Vargas Ave. and Garnet St.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. No. (63)(2) 6347505-08
Fax No. (63)(2) 6331833
e-mail: alegresales@i-manilla.com.ph
www.alegrebeachresort.com

Ignore the future

MOODS ARE warming with the weather. Colours are getting brighter, the layers are getting lighter. For roasts or city, slouch or style, for boy or girl-but most of all, for your pleasure - Lee delivers Spring/Summer 2004. Your no-nonsense answer to confidence this season.

T's are back-bigger and badder than ever before. Top-up your collection with one or more of Lee's new graphic print T's. Why not mix-it-up a little with a patchwork T or a deconstructed shirt, perfect for a party, picnic or punch-up. If punk-fueled rebellion is more your thing, try a bleach streak applique T.

Protect yourself in denim, today's answer to armour. Ladies make your pick this season from snow wash, grey wash, and blue and dirty fatigue. While you lasses will look polished in this season's stovepipes and minis in nud vintage, sunbleach and vintage splatter wash.

Be the raciest girl 'round town with a pair of buttercup shorts with patch pockets but if that's not your thing, capri and resort style pants with military influence are back to keep you company this season. It all depends if your ticket is for Rome, or Rio.

Lee jeans take a walk to Carnaby London with first store

Iconic denim brand Lee is to open its first-ever store in London, in November 2003. With two floors of cutting edge Lee styles denim lovers will be able to get the full Lee experience under one roof.



The flagship store will be situated in Carnaby Street, an increasingly hip fashion mecca for style brands. Illustrating the

heritage and since 1911 and its iconic denim styles, the store will feature Lee's Originals, 101s, Leos, AIs and seasonal collections.

The concept

The store has been designed by Europe's most forward-thinking design and communications agencies, with great experience in youth fashion retail and branding.

The store will reflect the philosophy of mixing influences with urban contemporary looks. A mixture of concrete and will be used in the store, alongside untreated steel, the original design of the building, the street, to expose the natural fabric and combine with industrial feel.

The Lee experience



Walking into the store, denim aficionados will encounter the 101

Romance can take a back-seat as we see the ladies assert their sexual power in a biker jacket teamed with a micro, yet manageable, mini or pair of studded panel hipsters. Why not funk it up with a flouro print T, but if that doesn't work, dazzle them in a tie-dye glitter T.

Fact: Spring/Summer is the

time you are most likely to get L. Union alls are a perfect illustration, so why funk not increase your chances with Lee.

Limit stocks available only

Union alls are a perfect illustration, so why funk not increase your chances with Lee.

heritage and takes inspiration from traditional workwear, reinterpreted into text, colour and



y jacket and bib overall were designed for those working railroaders. In the ground floor is the collection supporting the rebirth, styles such as Roscoe, the new low waist style for men and Nash the low waisted loose fit.



plement black denim buddy Lee original rider jacket and slim fitting shirts. Down into the basement, there will be across the panose originals. Ideas of the nineteenth century.

LEELEEJEANS.COM

Henry David Lee more than a hundred years ago.

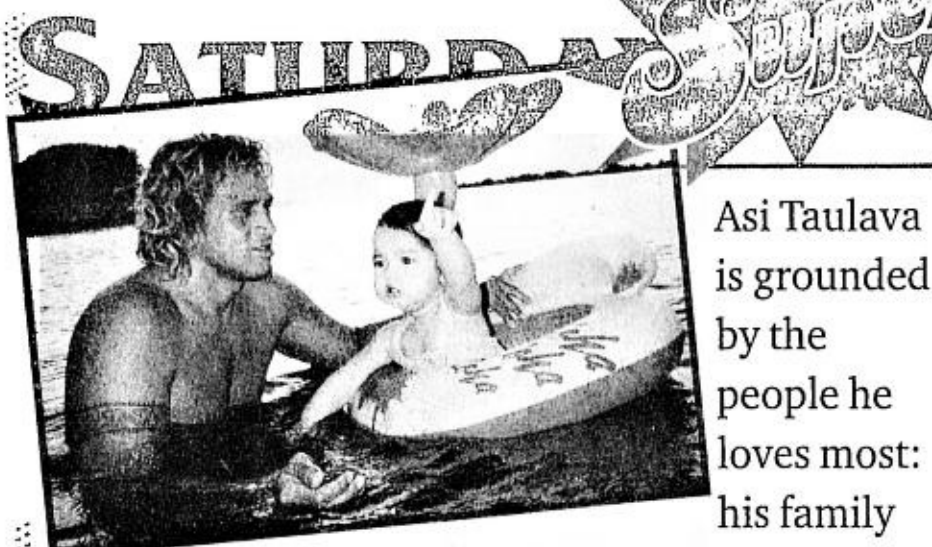
The New Lee denim store in Manila rocks avant-garde design

Inspired by large print, colorful paper lams, and painted wood and chrome metal details, the interior is a mishmash of old and style that showcase Lee's traditional heritage with the contemporary look of the collection inspired



mini polo. Even in the air setting in, all warmed up in a way with their jackets, zip up and raglan sweaters. Complete your guise for aficionados, Lee Denim offers varied looks from slim to tints and shine season of decadent as well as modern innovation, high quality fabric is pounded with stones and either bleached, burst or enzymed. An effect of being slashed, blasted, brushed tinted or whiskered is achieved to give it the distinctive Lee Denim look and feel. And with the cool accessories and over the top Gola Classic shoes, jean lovers get full Lee experience under one roof. So come visit the Lee store at the Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, Makati City and enter the new style territory.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Asi Taulava
is grounded
by the
people he
loves most:
his family

'Bad News Bear' no more



Borgy
Manotoc

"I OWE every-
thing to the
fans."

The words of 6'9",
275-lbs Asi Taulava,
PBA's Most Valuable
Player last season.

Life in the public
eye seems to have
taught the man more
about himself than
he might have cared
to know. He describes
his newfound
celebrity brought on
by professional basket-
ball: "If you can't
handle something
like this, it could defi-
nitely be something
bad."

The Tongan native
never expected to
bask in this much at-
tention. Nothing pre-
pared him for the
limelight that is the
result of his chosen
sport's immense popu-
larity in the Philip-
pines.

"The first couple
years were tough,"
Asi explains. He lost
track of his priorities
and spent too much
time on the town in-
stead of focusing on
his game. Very few
people seemed to
care about the man's
future, most pushed
him to merely have
fun and stay free of
responsibilities. They
still call, but he
doesn't pick up. Now
the sight of col-
leagues getting
caught up in the
world and losing
themselves frustrates
him. He just feels so
fortunate that basket-
ball has given him
such comfort, and
does not understand
how others can take
that for granted.

Having come full
circle Asi is grounded
by those he loves, his
family. Anna May, his
supportive wife helps
him understand the
responsibility that
comes with having
such an influence on
the masses. Finally
knowing what he
should hold true, the
self-proclaimed "Bad
News Bear" enjoys
life "offstage."

Precious company

Spending time
alone with his family
is the only way he
would choose to
spend his free time
these days. Be it in
White Cove for a long
weekend or Subic for
the day, the motiva-
tion is always peace
and quiet, and pre-
cious company. Much
like the landscape of
his native rural
Oahu, Philippine

BAD NEWS 117

DERMATOLOGIST AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION BY APPOINTMENT

FACIAL WORLD

Patronized & Trusted by Doctors!

SKIN WHITENING CENTER

1765 NICANOR GARCIA ST., [REPOS] BEL-AIR, MAKATI CITY • Tel. 890-2716
101 E. Rodriguez, Jr. Ave., Acropolis, LIBIS Quezon City (Beside Don Henrico's Rest.) • Tel. 421-9357
314 Alabang-Zapote Rd., Las Pinas (Near BF Resort & Casimiro Comm'l) • Tel. 872-6131
MRT-AYALA STATION, AYALA CENTER, MAKATI • 752-7170 41 TIMOG Avenue, Quezon City • 372-5293

BOTOX FAST WRINKLE
REMOVAL INJECTION
IN-BET BROW LINES Only P 3,500
EYE-LAUGH LINES Only P 4,500
FOREHEAD LINES Only P 5,000
PACKAGE P 9,950

Whole Body
WARTS
REMOVAL
FREE Skin Toner
Pore Reducer
Check-Up
for 3 MOS
P 385.00 ONLY

The Best
Facial Care Center
of the Phils.
for 2003

Awarded by:
The Consumers League
of the Phils. Foundation



FREE
Skin Refiner Lotion
& Whiter Cream
On price
of product

FACIAL
Cleaning w/ Laser,
Vacuum & Massage
w/ FREE 2 Check-Ups
P 219.95 ONLY

WHOLE BODY PEELING
PACKAGE (3 sessions)
w/ FREE
Body Bleaching Cream
(For Whitening Maintenance)
P 4,500.00 ONLY

**WHOLE BODY
POWER
BLEACH**
For Male & Female
P 429.95 ONLY

Shopwise blasts into the new year
with our biggest bang for your buck as we bring you...

SHOPWISE

SUPER SWEETSTAKES

Call our hotline at 9113507

www.shopwise.com.ph



It's so easy to win! Simply make the minimum purchase,
choose from the participating brand logos and make the
correct 3 logo combination for a chance to win instant cash.
Over P3 million in cash up for grabs! So c'mon down to
Shopwise — who knows? The sweetest cash windfall
is just waiting 'round the aisle!

Promo period: January 23 - April 11, 2004

SHOPWISE

See poster and flyer for details.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No.: 0094, Series of 2004.

ALABANG Left Wing | Festival Supermall | Filinvest • MAKATI Corner of Pasong Tamo and Vito Cruz Extension • LIBIS 150 E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue | Bagumbayan | QC

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: MARLONE RUBIO

Tata ta tata ta tata tata ta tata tatata

By Tim Yap

SINGAPORE—I just can't get her out of my head. Pardon the Kylie-sque intro, but this girl is destined for pop superstardom.

From her native Thailand where she is a music icon—having sold more than 12 million albums—Tata has spread her wings with the release of an all-English album, marked for worldwide distribution. Could she be the next Coco Lee? Will Tata Young conquer Asia, and then the world?

I think so. For sure she'll surpass Coco, who barely caused a ripple despite all the hype that surrounded her. This one has talent and, more than that, presence—and that all-elusive factor, charm.

I first met her in the Lion City, where we

landed on the same party spot right after the MTV Asia Awards. She looked so young and innocent, with ear-length hair that made her look even more adorable—the quintessential high-school crush.

Now, two years later, sporting long locks and sexy outfits, she is "Sexy, Naughty, Bitchy" (that's the carrier single of her new album, "I Believe"). In photos, she looks like a young Tia Carrere. Her music? Britney meets T.A.T.u.—a good girl with bad habits who just wants to have fun. But she avoids being compared to other artists. "I'm just Tata—I'd like to think all artists are unique."

Then again, Tata is not your typical Asian sensation. At 11, she beat 5,000 kids in the Thailand Junior Singing Contest. Since then, it has been a non-stop roller-coaster ride for this seductive songstress.

She made her professional debut at 14.

This
superstar
from
Thailand is
ready for
the world

At 15, she became the hottest pop star in the Land of Smiles, and proceeded to represent her country in music festivals abroad. She recorded more hit albums, sang the theme for the Asian games, starred in movies, appeared in covers (Time issue on successful Eurasians), modeled and endorsed products and basically did everything associated with pop superstardom.

And now she is being handled by the same people who developed the careers of Beyonce Knowles and Celine Dion. "It's a real honor to be with Columbia Records—being labelmate to these respected artists is a dream come true," she says.

For this, I heard she had a makeover in Taiwan—the region's styling hub. I ask about the transformation—what was it like? A battalion of stylists offering different looks, presenting different clothes and

styles? "Yes, exactly that—but I made sure that everything I picked still reflected the real me."

She's steadfast about that one. Tata embodies the modern Asian—global in mindset, sophisticated and cosmopolitan and not afraid to experiment. Her songs say the same thing—from "Sexy, Naughty, Bitchy" to the last track, "I Want What I Want"—this girl rocks.

The album, in her own words: "It's about being natural; it's fun, upbeat, funky pop, cheerful and energetic. There are also a few mellow and romantic songs. It reflects who I am. It's really me; my nature."

With all the feathers in her fully adorned hat—I ask what she thinks is her life's biggest achievement.

"Being a mother," she says with a wink, "... to six huggable and lovable dogs."

Oh, Tata, can we be your pet, too?



'NOW I work so hard because I don't want my kids to struggle.'



ASI shares his passion for beaches with his family.

Canon



3.2 megapixel
DIGITAL CAMERA
only PhP 14,950

PowerShot
A300
DIGITAL CAMERA

FREE



Canon Prima BF-10 Camera

Available in authorized Canon resellers nationwide.

Canon Marketing (Phil.), Inc. Marvin Plaza Building, 2153 Don Chino Rocas Avenue, Makati City Telephone Nos. 8126047 / 8926449 Email info@canon.com.ph

Promo runs from February 19 to March 15, 2004
NCR-DTI Permit No. 0674 Series of 2004

'Bad News Bear' no more

From page H1

beaches never fails to draw the Los Angeles-raised 29-year-old. "I love spending time just hanging out at the beach. My daughters think it's like taking a bath in a giant tub." At the start of the year, Asi finally got his first taste of the beautiful white sands of Boracay. "I really loved it. I can't wait to go back there."

But although Asi enjoys time away from the public, he would never think of separating himself from the fans. "Without the fans there would be no PBA, without the fans there would be no Asi Taulava right now! They're the ones that make us stars! The fans of Talk 'N Text and the PBA have been so good to me, this life is a blessing."

Taulava is not the type who would hide from or ignore the people that make him happy. He feels a strong responsibility to give back to the fans the kind of happiness they give him. He has never avoided the masses that await him after games or events. He truly feels he owes them time.

Tough childhood

Having been raised in a less than luxurious household, Asi wants nothing but the best for his own family.

"Growing up was hard," he recalls. "I had to work for everything. Now I work so hard 'cause I don't want my kids to struggle." And he would go to such lengths for the security of his children; it is a true testament to his worth.

Admittedly there are times when Asi asks himself what he would do to just be hanging out at the beach in Hawaii. He has a rigorous training schedule that starts early in the morning, and numerous endorsements throughout the day. On top of this, he has to find time to be a good husband and loving father.

Who can blame him for missing the days when he did not have to worry about anything? With people breathing down his neck with expectations and pressures to achieve more, who can blame him for sometimes wondering if life could be better otherwise? But Asi is quick to state that these thoughts are fleeting at best, because he would never trade his life for anything.

His physical size suggests the persona of the typical alpha male, but his warm demeanor and slapstick humor puts all those around him at ease. He is always trying to put a smile on someone's face with his antics. He has simplified his life—he still likes to have fun, but not to the extent of forgetting his role in society, and as a family man.

From his simple beginnings, Asi Taulava found the game that would show him the world and, eventually, what it is to be a man.



ASI and Anna May

PROFIX

create
rescue
vital
colour

PROFIX HAIR COLOUR

PROFIX

Hair Beyond Compare

A new trend in haircare by Splash Professional



MEL hath no fury...

Witnessing 'The Passion'

By Martin Valdes

IN AN early scene, in the garden of Gethsemane, an ominously bald Satan attempts a sibilant seduction of reason by claiming that no man can endure what history's most famous character is about to go through. "The Passion of the Christ," a valiant effort by Mel Gibson that hopes to express this struggle on both a physical and spiritual realm, is a film that succeeds and fails, depending on what you thought you were going to get.

I expected something drawn-out and preachy. It wasn't. I also assumed, given the controversies surrounding the film, that I was going to see something... well, controversial. I didn't.

What I did witness was a distillation of the latter part of all four Gospels into a very graphic interpretation of the last hours of Jesus of Nazareth. In the name of disclosure, I should warn that this review will contain spoilers, although it is difficult to imagine anybody not recognizing the events in this kind-of-famous story.

The movie starts out with Jesus, por-

trayed sympathetically by Jim Caviezel ("The Count of Monte Cristo") praying in Gethsemane. Beads of bloody sweat stain His face as He contemplates the enormity of the task ahead. Elsewhere, Judas accepts 30 pieces of silver and unknowingly starts modern history rolling. The Jewish High Council, or Sanhedrin, led by an appropriately slimy Caiaphas, arrests Jesus on charges of treason and blasphemy, and manage to coerce their conscience-plagued Roman governor into washing his hands off the matter.

Jesus' ordeal intersperses humiliation and torture in copious amounts, perpetrated in public and, for the most part, witnessed by Mary, His mother, John the Beloved, and Mary Magdalene. And I thought my first piano recital was nerve-racking.

Of course, the Christ is condemned to a criminal's death and forced to carry the very cross on which He will die. Finally, He is crucified. A sparse audience records His final words, and He passes away, but not before commending His spirit to God. Obviously, this summary doesn't do justice to the film, but it's the gist of an extremely familiar tale.

An old love letter

Gibson, best known for his Lethal Action legacy, is a devout Christian, and "The Passion" is his love letter to God. The problem

There is
enough
blood in this
movie to
float the
Titanic, and
it's all from
one
character

... than a Saviour scourged.



with this missive is that it's been written before. In fact, the film's unwavering faithfulness to its biblical source may be its greatest disadvantage as a work of art.

The furor surrounding "The Passion" is unlike anything seen since Martin Scorsese's "The Last Temptation of Christ" 16 years ago. Owing to the inherently sensitive nature of religion, "The Passion" is being accused of inciting anti-Semitic sentiments, as well as overdoing scenes of vivid violence. All this controversy has naturally stirred up interest and I, for one, admit to having been excited about seeing the world's most famous story as retouched in bold strokes. Imagine my surprise (or lack of it) to discover that Gibson's offering to modern Christianity is in the exact mold of Matthew's, Mark's, Luke's and John's. Again, this may have been the filmmaker's intention in the first place—to recreate on film what has been so eloquently and effectively narrated on paper for centuries. If so, then "The Passion" is a success, because it demonstrates a fidelity to the Gospel uncommon in these days of experimentation and liberal interpretation.

It has always been considered risqué to mix art and religion, the former encouraging subjectivity and the latter rigid in its rules of compliance. But the film does employ a few creative measures to plug in any gaps in the flow of the narrative, and Gibson is a seasoned enough professional to skillfully sway art into the realm of religion in subtle passes. The decision to produce the movie entirely in the root languages of Aramaic, Hebrew and Latin was inspired. It lends an authenticity to the product that most period pieces invariably sacrifice. The portrayal of Satan as female, juxtaposing her with Jesus' mother, Mary, is a great touch.

Also, giving definite identity to only three apostles helps strip the story of unnecessary perspective, narrowing it down to the three types of relations that one can expect in life: those who do one wrong (Judas), those who have not the strength (Peter), and those who stay by one's side (John). Caviezel plays Jesus with silent gusto, dishing out equal parts of human frailty and divine fortitude. There is a bit of Kazantzakis and Saramego in the portrayal of Jesus as human, susceptible to temptation and weakness.

Clichés galore

We don't get to spend much quiet time with the Carpenter from Galilee in this film, as He is busy being beaten through most of it, but the flashback episodes afford us a few moments during which to know a smiling Jesus who is less a savior and more a friend.

Clichés galore runs through the film, but hey, I guess this is still a Hollywood production. Satan, bald and female, appears at the most dire moments, spouting maggots and reticulated pythons (stepped on by Jesus,

thereby fulfilling some prophecy I seem to vaguely recall), carrying ugly babies (abominating the original Mother and Child), and screaming in Hell when Jesus triumphs in death. It's all a little Faustian for my taste. The Sanhedrin is calculating and petty, not unlike our own Legislature. The Roman soldiers are caricatures of the dumb, bad-guy in every movie, who enjoys torturing hapless victims.

Which brings me to my next point, the violence. There is enough blood in this movie to float the Titanic. And it's all from one character. Devout Christians who feel the need to share the Gospel according to Gibson with their young kids should view it beforehand.

Two words to summarize the pain: glass shards. Imagine the torture scene in "Braveheart" (starring Gibson) stretched over 120 minutes. This film could be renamed "The Scourging and Other Tales," as this specific episode seems to last the whole movie. And what's with that Roman soldier who whips Jesus the entire length of the film? It's like he can't wait to go to hell! I imagine that many viewers, affected by watching somebody suffer so much, will mistake the emotion as religious fervor, instead of empathy. Well, maybe it's both; I can't tell right now. I'm still numb from the chunks of flesh hurled at the camera.

As for the "anti-Semitic sentiments," I don't see them. Does it make Jewish people look bad? No, just human. Sure they were responsible for executing the poor Carpenter who taught lessons on love and truth, and who would later be revealed as the Central Figure in the world's most dominant religion. But hey, who knew? Now we know how Germans feel every time another Holocaust movie wins an Oscar.

Did I enjoy the movie? This isn't a film that one enjoys, just experiences. Did I cry? Like a baby, every time Jesus meets His mother. Is this the greatest movie ever made? No, but many may think so.

The love letter that is "The Passion of the Christ" is disturbing and soaked in holy blood. As a work of art, it lacks innovation and relies heavily on shock value to evoke reaction. But as a visual narrative meant to reintroduce the darkest and brightest moments of Christianity to an MTV generation, it's powerful stuff. Reactions to the film have ranged from outrage to conversion (quite a surprise given that everything shown in the film is already in the Bible) and I suspect the debate will continue until Janet Jackson bares her other breast. This isn't going to win an Academy Award, either, but Mel Gibson didn't do this one for an Oscar. Watching "The Passion of the Christ" is far from a comfortable undertaking. Then again, neither is dying on a cross.

(E-mail author at lasengnomad@yahoo.com)

TechnoMarine

XS LADY
WWW.TECHNOMARINE-PH.COM

TECHNOMARINE ENTERPRISES PHILIPPINES INC. TEL. (632) 7573975 TELEFAX (632) 7573976
TECHNOMARINE FLAGSHIP STORE, GROUND FLOOR, GREENBELT 3 AYALA CENTER MAKATI CITY TEL. 7573975 TELEFAX 7573976
TECHNOMARINE BOUTIQUE, UNIT 311, 3RD FLOOR, BLDG. A SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY TEL. 6317491 TELEFAX 6374943
RAFAEL JEWELLERY 2ND LEVEL, SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL, EDSA COR. SHAW, MANDALUYONG CITY TEL. 6363398 TELEFAX 6363399
RAFAEL JEWELLERY MEZZANINE LEVEL, MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, MAKATI CITY TEL. 8138213 TELEFAX 8138501
MY DIAMOND 2ND FLOOR GLORIETTA 4, AYALA CENTER MAKATI CITY TEL. 7571086
TIME PLUS 75 GRND. FLOOR GREENHILLS THEATRE MALL TEL. 7217868
WASHINGTON ROCKWELL R1 LEVEL, POWERPLANT MALL, MAKATI CITY TEL. 8982288

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz



Drinking and driving is the most dangerous combination since Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley

Think and thrive

LET me tell you a true tale of how Aerosmith once saved my life.

Some years back, I was riding in the backseat of my friend's car. We were all waiting for the light to turn green at a busy city intersection. My friends and I had just come from a wedding reception, and in truth we were all quite hammered, thanks to the free-flowing booze served up all night. Since the newlyweds were old high school friends of ours, we decided to pay them a little post-nuptial tribute, by playing classics of their favorite band, Aerosmith, loudly over the car speakers. I was leaning against the sedan's side window, buzzed from all the alcohol flowing in my bloodstream, singing softly along to the nostalgic tunes of "Janie's got a Gun" and "Love in an Elevator." At the onset of the next song, "An-

THINK/12

MOISSANITE JEWELLERY

So diamond-like

It's almost impossible

to tell the difference

MOISSANITE JEWELLERY

CHARLES COVARD

Glorietta 1, Ayala Center (02) 893-0521 • SM City North EDSA (02) 926-1961
SM Megamall Bldg. A (02) 637-0490 • SM City Davao (082) 297-2069
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center (02) 631-1615 • www.moissaniteph.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that:

Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. with address at No. 8 Mercury Avenue, Bagumbayan, Quezon City is the exclusive distributor of window and door profiles produced by profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe of Pirmasens, Germany.

profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe has appointed Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. as its exclusive distributor because of its pioneering experience in PVC-U window and door profiles and its expertise in customizing PVC-U windows and doors. As such, profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe has authorized Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. to customize the window and door profiles supplied to them from Germany. Moreover, profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe provides full and exclusive technical support to Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. in order that Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. can customize the window and door profiles to comply with the state of the art standards of profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe.

The public is further notified that all window and door profiles supplied by profine GmbH, Kömmerling Kunststoffe to Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. are produced at the profine GmbH Kömmerling Kunststoffe plant at Pirmasens, Germany, as evidenced by the original Kömmerling Kunststoffe protective foil on every profile.

The public is also advised that all window and door profiles supplied by profine GmbH Kömmerling Kunststoffe to Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. have the following qualities:

- They have been specifically tropicalized for the ASIAN market as per prEN 12608:1997, 4.1. for color fastness and resistance to weathering for severe climate conditions;
- It complies with BS 5368 for wind resistance up to wind pressure of 2400 PA;
- It complies with BS 6375 for resistance to driving rain, joint tightness and water tightness;
- It has a multi-chamber special insulator to reduce noise to 45 dB;
- It is the only company that complies with Greenline Convention by using only fresh PVC-U with calcium zinc stabilizer and does not utilize any recycled PVC-U or lead based PVC-U;

The public is hereby warned that any product allegedly with the Kömmerling brand which is not purchased directly from Kenneth & Mock Designs, Inc. is either fake or is not specially produced for Philippine conditions. Any third party claiming contrary to what is stated in this notice is unauthorized, illegal and/or constitutes unfair trade competition. Any information regarding such false claims or declarations will be appreciated. Kindly relay such information to the undersigned law firm. Any questions or clarifications as to the matters contained in this notice may likewise be directed to the undersigned law firm.



KÖMMERLING

COCHINGYAN & PARTNERS LAW OFFICES
6/F Richmond Plaza,
No. 21 San Miguel Ave., cor. Lourdes St.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
Telephone Nos. 637-0382 to 84
e-mail: cochingyan@pacific.net.ph

Burns Fat 43% Faster

Introducing ThermoGreen Tea Caps from Universal Nutrition, the first clinically-proven, ephedra-free thermogenic fat burner in the world.



This proprietary extract has been proven to increase thermogenesis by up to 43%. The most amazing thing is that the test subjects increased thermogenesis and fat oxidation without exercise of any kind! Yet research found that the formula found exclusively in ThermoGreen Tea will not increase heart rate. These two facts make ThermoGreen Tea a true breakthrough in fat burning supplements.

Healthy Options

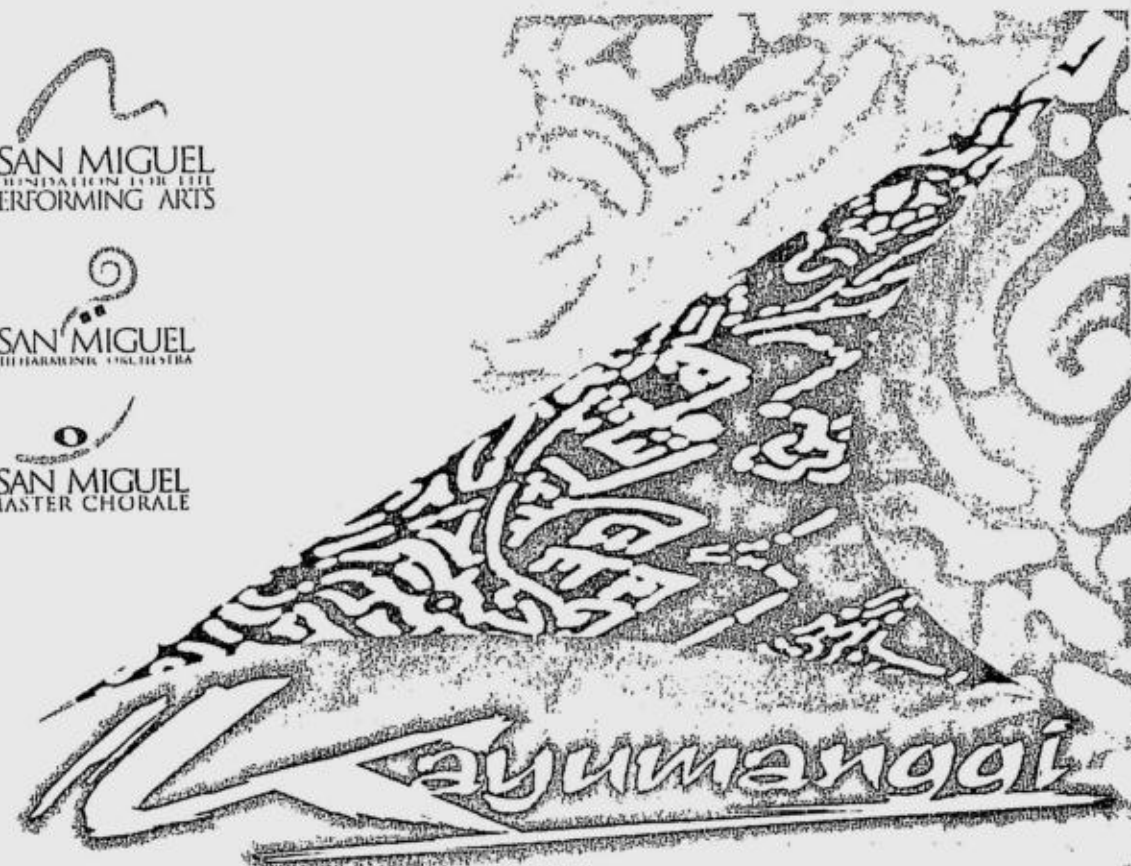
Asia's #1 Natural Products Store

- Shangri-La Plaza, EDSA
- Rustan's Supermarket, Makati
- SM City North EDSA
- Festival Supermall, Alabang
- SM City Pampanga
- SM Megamall, EDSA
- Greenbelt Makati
- SM City Manila
- Ayala Center, Cebu
- SM City Davao

THE SAN MIGUEL
FUNDATION FOR THE
PERFORMING ARTS

THE SAN MIGUEL
FILIPINIAN ORCHESTRA

THE SAN MIGUEL
MASTER CHORALE



Filipino & Asian works
A cappella and accompanied voices

The San Miguel Master Chorale
Eudence V. Palaruan, conductor
with

The San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra

8pm

Saturday

13 March 2004

Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo
Cultural Center of the Philippines
Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

TicketWorld

891 9999

CCP Box Office

832 3706

SMFPA

632 3698

www.smfpa.com



SAN MIGUEL
CORPORATION



PLDT

bench



MANILA BULLETIN

Can't get you out of my head



CLAY AIKEN. This American Idol's lyrics make us wish we were 'Invisible.'

LIKE poetry, songs can be understood in a host of ways depending on your perspective—making their appreciation definitely subjective. The flipside to this is the fact that songs are also prone to gross misinterpretation if your mind is a bit twisted. Like the alleged David Gest-Diana Ross hook-up (s-h-u-d-d-e-r), popular compositions can become objects of amusement for the masses. Look at it this way: it's a safe bet that not all the tunes that make it to radio, MTV, or your hard drive are well-crafted. In fact, if you pay close attention, you'll find that the screws are often loose in the lyric department.

At times, some verses are utterly meaningless (Hanson's "Mmm-bop badoo ba dop ba doowop") or retarded (Destiny's Child's "Can you pay my bills, automo-bills"). The rest of the time, they're just downright irritating (R. Kelly's "Thoia Thoing") or completely mistaken (2Pac declares "We're in the Sunshine State!" in "California Love," when the Sunshine State is, in fact, Florida. Cali is the Golden State. Doh!).

Now, minor things like weak lines shouldn't really yank your chain. But if you're an extreme music fan like me, dimwit melodies are bound to pound on your nerves every time you hear them. True, it's the songwriters who should be shot, but recording artists aren't completely innocent, either. (Remember that they agreed to sing lyrics that the composer could have pulled out of his/her ass.) There should be a law against songs that stink and producers who abuse their so-called poetic license. Until that happens, let's just make fun of stupid music one song at a time, shall we?

Disturbing behavior

Jessica Simpson, "Sweetest Sin"

The lame lyrics:
All day I think of schemes
To get you next to me
I want you so bad that I can barely breathe
It's a sign of my obsession
That I can't stop thinking 'bout
Why it's lame:

Is America's brattiest housewife also a creepy stalker? "Sweetest Sin" may be ex-virgin Jessica Simpson's love song to her pussy-whipped hubby, but it could likewise be an ode to her ascent to B-List semi-stardom. If she carries on with the powerless princess put-on in both her reality show and singing

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz



career, this spoiled newlywed will most likely pout her way to divorce court real soon. Clay Aiken, "Invisible"
If I was invisible
Then I could just

watch you in your room

If I was invisible
I'd make you mine tonight
If hearts were unbreakable
Then I could just tell you where I stand
I would be the smartest man
If I was invisible.
Wait, I already am.
Why it's lame:

A peeping tom with pipes! Judging by the sleaziness of Clay Aiken's breakthrough track, "Invisible," it seems like this "Idol" runner-up

is fessing up his frustrations as a former summer camp director while revealing his desire to have superpowers that would make that other weirdo, Michael Jackson, totally envious. Two words to stop pervers like this from getting what they want: restraining order.

Young and dumb

Ruben Studdard, "Sorry 2004"

The lame lyrics:
It's like building a new house, with no roof and no doors.
(Damn, I'm sorry)
It's like trying to propose, and I ain't got the

ring.
(Oooh damn I'm sorry)
Why it's lame:

A simple "Whoops!" to such an enormous lapse in common sense just doesn't cut it. It's like bombing Iraq for world peace and apologizing by saying "My bad!" Wait—that did happen. Go join Dubya in the doghouse, Studdard!

Hilary Duff, "So Yesterday"

The lame lyrics:
But I'm gonna keep your jeans
And your old black hat
(Cause I wanna)
They look good on me

You're never gonna get them back

Why it's lame:

By my guestimation, Hilary Duff is about 5'4" and 95 lbs. If she can squeeze into a pair of her ex-boyfriend's denims, then he must've been a real tiny dude. But enough about Duff! We want Lindsay Lohan!

Repeat offenders

Black Eyed Peas, "Shut Up"

The lame lyrics:
Shut up
Just shut up shut up
Shut up
Just up just up
Shut it up
Just shut up shut up
Why it's lame:

Last year's "Where Is The Love?" was the perfect pop anthem for a world torn apart by war and "Joe Millionaire." Too bad the BEP had to follow that up with this angst-filled crapfest. It sounds like they were singing to the voices in their heads, the very ones that called this song weak.

Ashanti, "Baby"

The lame lyrics:
Baby, baby, baby, baby, baby,
Baby I love you baby,
Baby, baby, baby, baby,
I love it when I hear ya name,
Got me sayin' 'baby, baby, baby, baby, baby,
Baby I love you baby,



EVEN Microsoft Word protested against Ashanti's lyrics

Baby, baby, baby, baby

Why it's lame:

Catchy? Yeah! Deep? Hell, no! My Microsoft Word went nuts and smeared red squiggles all over the page after I copy-pasted these lyrics, suggesting I delete the repeated words. Hearing that four letter word x times was pathetic enough. Seeing the entire thing written down was just out of control.

Nice and offensive

Nelly with P Diddy and Murphy Lee, "Shake Ya Tailfeather"

The lame lyrics:
Is that your ass or your momma have reindeer?

Why it's lame:

On 2001's "E.I.," Nelly declared he was "a sucker for cornrows and manicured toes," which would've cleared the bar except for the fact that last I checked, toes were pedicured. That oversight, however, is nothing compared to the clunker scribbled above, which manages to upset both Jennifer Lopez and Santa's favorite fauna in one fell swoop. Booyah!

Lame Hall of Shame

Cheeky Girls, "The Cheeky Song (Touch My Bum)"

The lame lyrics:
Never ever ask, where do you go
Never ever ask, what do you do
Never ever ask,

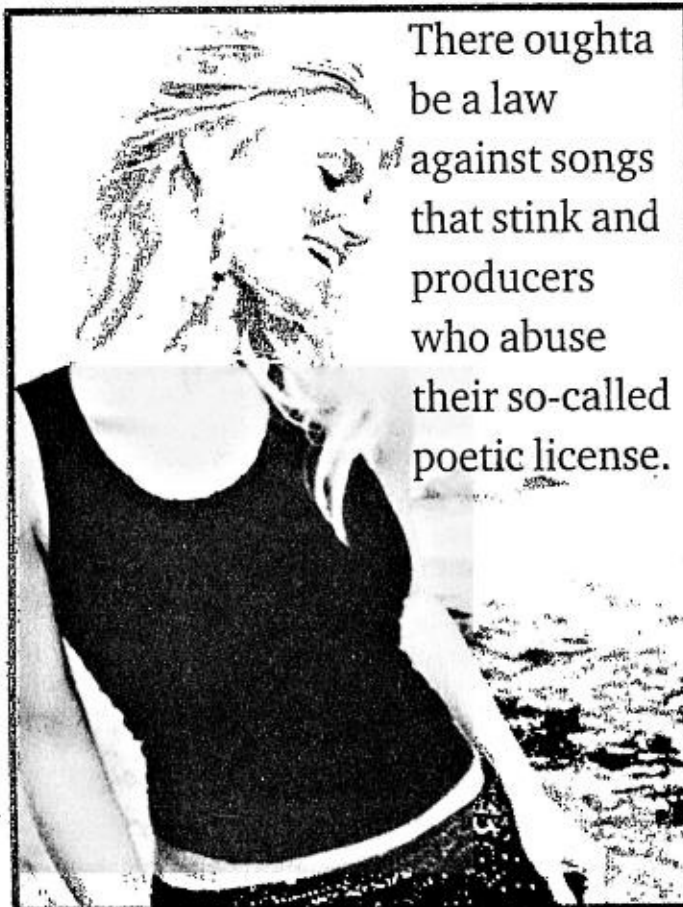
what's in your mind

Never ever ask, if you'll be mine
Come and smile, don't be shy
Touch my bum, this is life
Why it's lame:

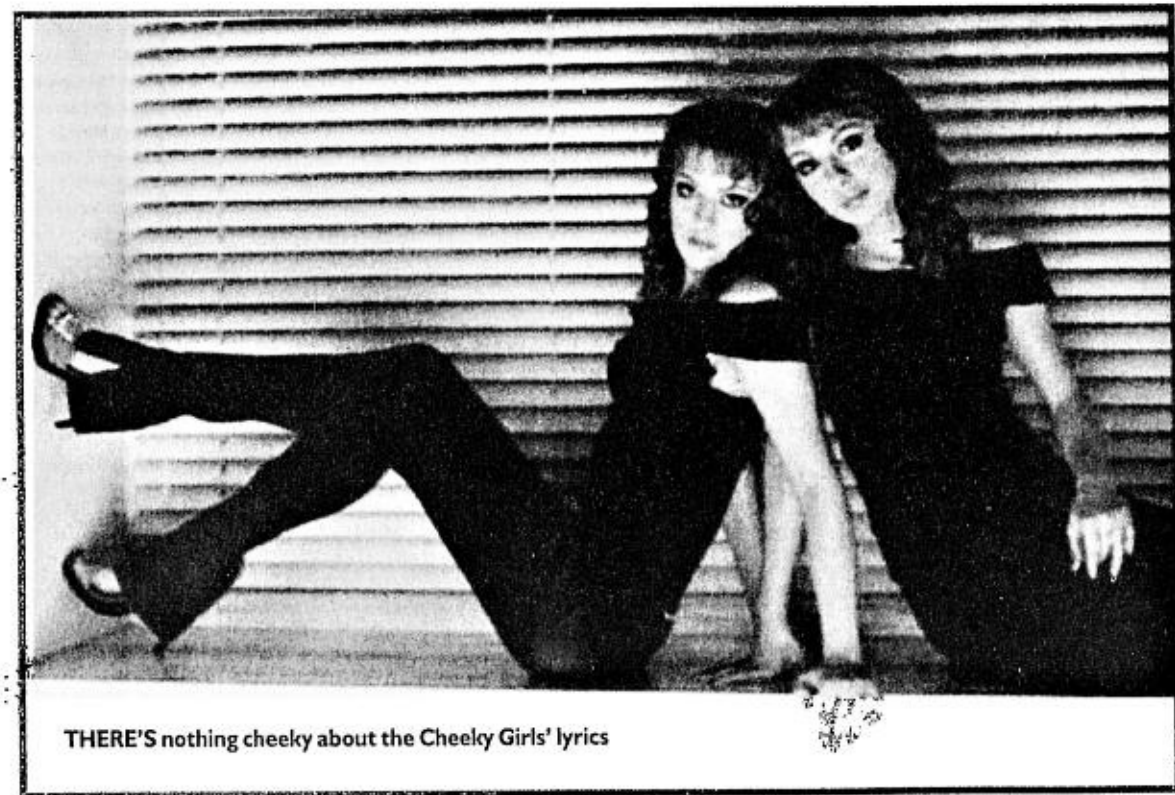
Is this a 1st grade English composition? A date rape invitation? Never ever ask, what did you smoke? These twin Transylvanian tarts prove they are strictly bottom-shelf flukes with "The Cheeky Song" and make Aqua's "Barbie Girl" sound like a Shakespearean sonnet by comparison. Hey, what's that I see spiraling down the toilet? Oh, it's their career!



RUBEN Studdard has a lot to be sorry for.



JESSICA Simpson's 'Sweetest Sin' leaves a bitter taste in the mouth.



THERE'S nothing cheeky about the Cheeky Girls' lyrics

Think and thrive

From page 11

gel," my friend riding shotgun jacked up the volume and told me to sing it aloud. As I leaned closer to the speakers to belt out the refrain—"You're my angel, come and save me tonight!!!"—I felt an immense force hit my side ... and I blacked out.

Another car had slammed into ours head on, right smack into my side window, just a few seconds after I tilted my head away from the tinted glass. The other driver was also drunk. He had tried to beat the red light and smashed into our car full of smashed people.

I consider myself extremely lucky for coming out of that harrowing episode alive. My panic-struck friends rushed me to the hospital and found out that mercifully, nothing was damaged and yes, I still remembered my name. Then I freaked out when I saw what was damaged: the side of my friend's car, which was straight out of a post-napalmed Matrix universe.

The memory of this incident continues to haunt me to this day, like a dark phan-

tom constantly reminding me of my vulnerability and finiteness in this world. I shudder each time I hear stories of tragic accidents, near-death experiences and young lives snuffed out before their prime, on account of the most dangerous mix since Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley. That is, drinking and driving.

5 a.m. shift

I truly believe that our San Miguel-worshipping society trivializes the extreme danger posed by this lethal combination. It's tragic but true: these days, the one who ends up behind the wheel after a gimmick is the person least drunk among the boozing crew. I confess that since I'm usually the last one standing without swaying, I get to be the de facto bus driver of the 5 a.m. shift. Many times I'd be praying that whole time to every heavenly icon I could think of, invoking all seven archangels, from Michael to Uriel, and of course, my personal angel Steve Tyler. The fact that I do this means I

should not be handed the keys!

In the United States, my sorry arse would have landed in jail many times in the last year alone, for breaking the drunk driving laws that are strictly enforced over there. Rule number one says it all: A person who has imbibed 0.08% of alcohol is not allowed to drive. In local liquor lingo, that is only two San Mig Lights! And even if you're totally sober, but are caught driving with an open bottle or can of beer in the car, it is already grounds for revocation of your driver's license. I once witnessed how these laws were firmly enforced, when I was on a 14-hour road trip from Orlando to New Orleans for the 2000 Mardi Gras bacchanalia. A friend, who was actually sober, didn't realize he was driving below the speed limit. From out of nowhere, a cop suddenly pulled us over and subjected him to drunk-driving tests. He had to walk a straight line and recite the alphabet before he could get back in the driver's seat. It's so ironic that here in Manila, aka the lost highway of crazed drivers,

measures against drunk driving are virtually non-existent.

Designated drivers

Granted, it would take an eternity and an hour for our local system to come up with an efficient way of monitoring drunk driving. But there is one oft-forgotten solution that could keep motorists and friends alive: the Designated Driver scheme. By this I don't mean whoever has imbibed the least amount of Johnny and Jack, but the one person in the group anointed as the sober saviour, the one willing to sacrifice one night of boozing for the sake of insuring more happy nights and tomorrows with friends. This is in fact my Happy Hour crew's new system which took effect at the start of the new year. It's simple enough—just assign one person with the car keys in one hand and a girly-girl, non-alcoholic daiquiri in the other. Truth to tell, I do cringe when it's my turn to be saviour, but I just need to think of how much I value the lives not only of my friends but also of the other

people on the highway. It's enough to keep me content with bottled water the whole night. (The bigger pain is actually telling people repeatedly that no, I am not on Ecstasy). And if a drunk friend insists on driving, it's your duty to seize the keys before he puts them in the ignition. I don't care if you have to slap your friend to do so!

Sobering thoughts

I recently attempted to make a quick count of how many people I know, young or old, who had gotten into bad accidents and extremely close encounters with the Grim Reaper in the past three years. Before the second hand hit 45 seconds, I had 23 names. Two of them can't walk properly to this day, and three have hit the road to the ever after.

Now there's some sobering thoughts to swallow.

If you must drink hard, think harder.

(E-mail the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com)



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO



SACRED HEART SCHOOL



**I LOVE SUMMER!!!
FUN WORKSHOPS**

HURRY ENROLL NOW!
www.sacredheartschool.com.ph

MALABON 447-3371 • SAN LORENZO 810-8506 • SHANGRI-LA PLAZA 636-1227
FORBES PARK 840-2632 • PARANAGUE 823-1348 • DELA ROSA 810-8997
GOODWILL BOOKSTORE 867-1125 • GREENHILLS 705-1630 BHIHODO 247-0862
THE FORT 815-3058 • BACOLOD (034) 433-3851 • CEBU (032) 231-1791

(CLASSES & WORKSHOPS MAY VARY PER BRANCH)

SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES (FOR 1.5-5.5 YEARS OLD)

16 Great days of fun, learning and meeting new friends! ... Each new day will be filled with new interesting courses and exciting activities! You'll have lessons in reading, writing, singing, dancing, arts & crafts, and good manners!

ART WORKSHOP (FOR 5-15 YEARS OLD)

Become a famous artist by learning to express yourself by drawing, painting, sketching, sculpting and coloring!

TINY KITCHEN (FOR 3-7 YEARS OLD)

One of the country's greatest cooks and funniest moms - Vicky Veloso-Barera - will bring you the magic of making great things to eat, as well as how to eat healthy!

MANNERS, MANNERS EVERYWHERE (PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT FOR 3-7 & 8-12 YEARS OLD)

Learn social graces, good manners and how to behave politely with fun and exciting games and activities.

TAEKWONDO (FOR 5-15 YEARS OLD)

Kick! Chop! Tumble! Roll! Become a powerful martial arts master!

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE! (BALLET CLASSES FOR 3-10 YEARS OLD)

(FLAMENCO FOR ADULTS)
(JAZZ & JAZZ FOR 4-12 YEARS OLD)

Float like a butterfly, fly like a bird, dance like a princess. Learn grace and rhythm and have a lot of fun while you're at it!

TUTORIAL & REVIEW CLASSES

Get a head start on school this summer by joining our review classes in all your favorite subjects, or learn to enjoy the subjects you don't like!

CHINESE LANGUAGE (MANDARIN) TUTORIALS (FOR 4-10 YEARS OLD)

Become an expert in Chinese - one of the greatest languages in the world!

SUMMER KUMON (MATH & READING) PROGRAM (FOR 3-YEAR OLDS AND OLDER)

Red. white & blue

*Colorful Steps
to poetic
dancing*

By Alex Escat
Contributor

Red, the color of pain is red.
White, a prayer of baroque.
Blue, you make my brown eyes blue.

THERE is poetry in dance. One evening last month, I walked through the glass doors of a very well-known dance studio, not knowing what to expect. Red peppers on a table greeted me. White feathers on the ground led me through the rooms. Blue liquid-filled bottles glimmered on the staircase.

A warm smile ushered me into the studio room. On this special night, Sofia Elizalde—mother, producer and inspirational figure of Steps Dance Studio—was receiving family and friends to her very own home, the better to share her story of success, passion and love for dancing.

For 10 years now, Steps Dance Studio has made its presence felt on metro stages with its wide selection of impressive dance numbers. This year's anniversary celebration just had to be memorable. Thus a masterpiece dance was followed by feasting on splendid wine and cheese from the mouthwatering gourmet picks of Terry's Selection, located next to the studio.

The dance itself was a work of art. I wish I could have gathered all of Manila into the little studio room where the show was held. I bet more than one person would have shed a tear, tired for longing, squeezed a seatmate's arm, and then laughed their sorrows away.

James Laforteza, a prominent figure in the dance scene of the Philippines, fleshed out the great choreography. He created the masterpiece's red, white and blue worlds filled with emotional messages and body movements that can challenge even the strongest and most flexible bodies.

Stephanie Kienle, one of the dancers, offered a glimpse of Laforteza's effectiveness as an instructor: "He teaches us the steps and then tells us that, as dancers, we should perform it the way we feel it." James and Sofia Elizalde were the perfect duo to put a dance show together. They are great dancers, teachers and inspirational figures.

The red world represented pain, abuse, loss, loneliness, and failure. White gave hope for individuality and unity in religion. Blue celebrated modern times, pop culture and humor. Grace Amante, another senior dancer, explained: "There is so much emotion in play, that one must learn how to separate them from one part to the next. Getting psyched for each part was a big challenge."

Others in the talented team of performers were Grace Amante, Katrina Dingcong, Yucel Estrada, Stephanie Kienle, Elizabeth Malaran, Choie Martinez, Bernadette Osias, PJ Rebullida, and Keina Rae Sabay. Handpicked from Steps dance classes, being the most outstanding students, these young artists completely won us over.

Steps is bound to influence the Philippines' dance landscape for years to come.

EXPERIENCE VIVID 262,000 TFT COLORS

NOW!

GEO G1

FIRST TO GIVE YOU MORE THAN
262,000 COLORS.



262,000 TFT (ACTIVE MATRIX) COLOR
SUPERIOR PICTURE QUALITY, LARGE DISPLAY AREA AND CLEAR IMAGES IN TRUE COLOR.



CAM CORDER
BUILT-IN DIGITAL CAMERA AND VIDEO RECORDER, GIVING YOU THE FREEDOM TO CAPTURE STILL OR MOVING IMAGES.



64 POLYPHONIC RINGTONES
RINGTONES THAT SOUND LIKE REAL MUSIC, CHOOSE FROM THE BUILT-IN SELECTION OR SIMPLY DOWNLOAD MORE TO PERSONALIZE YOUR PHONE.



COLOR EXTERNAL LCD / PICTURE CALLER ID
PICTURE ID'S CAN BE VIEWED INSTANTLY WHEN RECEIVING A CALL OR MESSAGE. GET A BETTER VIEW WHEN TAKING YOUR SELF-PORTRAIT WITH THE CAMERA'S SELF-SHOT FEATURE.



FLASH W/ LIGHT SENSOR
EVEN DURING NIGHTTIME OR LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS, YOU ARE SURE TO CAPTURE IMAGES IN TRUE COLOR, WITH A LIGHT SENSOR THAT AUTOMATICALLY SWITCHES THE FLASH ON OR OFF.

Specifications: Dual Band GSM 900/1800MHz • Dimensions: 88x46x23.2mm • Weight: 90g
Standby time: 180 hrs. • Talk time 160 mins. • MMS, GPRS, WAP 1.2.1



GEO

Mobile

Metro Manila: Global - Ground Floor, Greenbelt 1, Makati City Tel: 886-0104 • Mega Cellular - 1953-55 Buensikida Bldg. M. Adriano St. Malate Manila Tel: 5221833 • TTD Walfcom - JMC Building, Zavieros cor Rockefeller St. Uryu San Isidro St. Makati City Tel: 889-0041 • ULB/BSO
Int - 4 level Bldg B Cyberzone SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City Tel: 635-7546 • North Luzon: CSL Electronics - Perez Blvd cor Rizal St. Dagupan City Tel: (075) 522-1518 • South Luzon: Gold St. - Panamunda St. Legazpi City Tel: 820-5378 • Pacific Sky / Calt City - 3/F Shoppers
Lane, Pacific Mall Legazpi City • Viewers - 230 A Morchant St. Lucena City Tel: (042) 710-6216 • Visayas / Mindanao: Cel Wave - Everbest Extension Cagayan De Oro Tel: (068) 8570000 • ERM Glon - 115 Justice Romances St. Tacloban City Tel: (053) 321-2588 • Graphics - Capt.
Vicente Roa Extension, Cagayan De Oro Tel: (088) 856-7999 • JunRex - 3/F Cinema Level SM City Cebu Tel: (032) 233-3333 • PO's Marketing - Araneta St. Bacolod City Tel: (034) 432-3223 • Wylhelms 3/F SM Davao, Quampo Boulevard, Davao City

BEST COPY AVAILABLE



ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

SACRED HEART SCHOOL

**I LOVE SUMMER!!!
FUN WORKSHOPS**

HURRY ENROLL NOW!
www.sacredheartschool.com.ph

MALABON 447-3371 • SAN LORENZO 810 8506 • SHANGHAI PLAZA 436-127
FORBES PARK 840-2632 • PASAY 823-1348 • DELA REZA 810 8997
GOODWILL BOULEVARD 867-1126 • CIPRIAN 805-1630 WICKHAM 247 0862
THE FORI 815 3058 • BACOLOD (034) 471 3851 • CEBU (032) 711 1791

(CLASSES & WORKSHOPS MAY VARY PER BRANCH)

SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES
(FOR 1 & 6-5 YEARS OLD)

15 Great days of fun, learning and meeting new friends! Each new day will be filled with new interesting courses and exciting activities! You'll have lessons in reading, writing, singing, dancing, arts & crafts, and up-and-down!

ART WORKSHOPS
(FOR 5-15 YEARS OLD)

Become a famous artist by learning to express yourself by drawing, painting, sketching, sculpting and coloring!

TINY KITCHEN
(FOR 3-7 YEARS OLD)

One of the country's greatest cooks and funniest moms - Vicky Valoso-Baron - will bring you the magic of making great things to eat, as well as how to eat healthy!

MANNERS, MANNERS EVERYWHERE
(PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT FOR 1-7 & 8-12 YEARS OLD)

Learn social graces, good manners and how to behave politely with fun and exciting games and activities.

TAEKWONDO
(FOR 5-15 YEARS OLD)

Red Chop! Umbat Roll! Become a powerful martial arts master!

DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!
(BALLET CLASSES FOR 3-10 YEARS OLD)
(FLAMENCO FOR ADULTS)
(JAZZ FOR 4-12 YEARS OLD)

Float like a butterfly, fly like a bird, dance like a princess. Learn grace and rhythm and have a lot of fun while you're at it!

TUTORIAL & REVIEW CLASSES

Get a head start on school this summer by joining our review classes in all your favorite subjects, or learn to enjoy the subjects you don't like!

CHINESE LANGUAGE (MANDARIN) TUTORIALS
(FOR 4-10 YEARS OLD)

Become an expert in Chinese - one of the greatest languages in the world!

SUMMER KUMON (MATH & READING) PROGRAM
(FOR 3-YEAR OLDS AND OLDER)

Red. white & blue

Colorful Steps
to poetic
dancing

By Alex Escat
Contributor

Red, the color of pain is red.
White, a prayer of baroque.
Blue, you make my brown eyes blue.

THERE is poetry in dance. One evening last month, I walked through the glass doors of a very well-known dance studio, not knowing what to expect. Red peppers on a table greeted me. White feathers on the ground led me through the rooms. Blue liquid-filled bottles glimmered on the staircase.

A warm smile ushered me into the studio room. On this special night, Sofia Elizalde—mother, producer and inspirational figure of Steps Dance Studio—was receiving family and friends to her very own home, the better to share her story of success, passion and love for dancing.

For 10 years now, Steps Dance Studio has made its presence felt on metro stages with its wide selection of impressive dance numbers. This year's anniversary celebration just had to be memorable. Thus a masterpiece dance was followed by feasting on splendid wine and cheese from the mouthwatering gourmet picks of Terry's Selection, located next to the studio.

The dance itself was a work of art. I wish I could have gathered all of Manila into the little studio room where the show was held. I bet more than one person would have shed a tear, cried for longing, squeezed a seatmate's arm, and then laughed their sorrows away.

James Laforteza, a prominent figure in the dance scene of the Philippines, fleshed out the great choreography. He created the masterpiece's red, white and blue worlds filled with emotional messages and body movements that can challenge even the strongest and most flexible bodies.

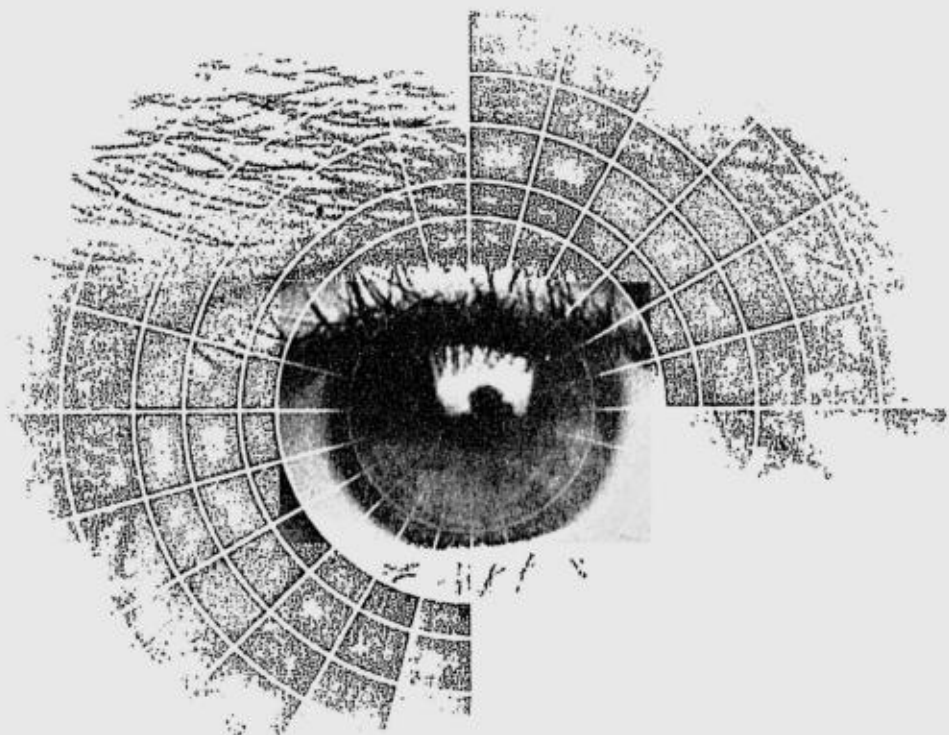
Stephanie Kienle, one of the dancers, offered a glimpse of Laforteza's effectiveness as an instructor: "He teaches us the steps and then tells us that, as dancers, we should perform it the way we feel it." James and Sofia Elizalde were the perfect duo to put a dance show together. They are great dancers, teachers and inspirational figures.

The red world represented pain, abuse, loss, loneliness, and failure. White gave hope for individuality and unity in religion. Blue celebrated modern times, pop culture and humor. Grace Amante, another senior dancer, explained: "There is so much emotion in play, that one must learn how to separate them from one part to the next. Getting psyched for each part was a big challenge."

Others in the talented team of performers were Grace Amante, Katrina Dingcong, Yucel Estrada, Stephanie Kienle, Elizabeth Malaran, Choe Martinez, Bernadette Osias, PJ Rebullida, and Keina Rae Sabay. Handpicked from Steps dance classes, being the most outstanding students, these young artists completely won us over.

Steps is bound to influence the Philippines' dance landscape for years to come.

EXPERIENCE VIVID 262,000 TFT COLORS



NOW!

GEO G1

FIRST TO GIVE YOU MORE THAN
262,000 COLORS.



262,000 TFT (ACTIVE MATRIX) COLOR
SUPERIOR PICTURE QUALITY, LARGE DISPLAY AREA AND CLEAR IMAGES IN TRUE COLOR.



CAM CORDER
BUILT-IN DIGITAL CAMERA AND VIDEO RECORDER, GIVING YOU THE FREEDOM TO CAPTURE STILL OR MOVING IMAGES.



64 POLYPHONIC RINGTONES
RINGTONES THAT SOUND LIKE REAL MUSIC, CHOOSE FROM THE BUILT-IN SELECTION OR SIMPLY DOWNLOAD MORE TO PERSONALIZE YOUR PHONE.



COLOR EXTERNAL LCD / PICTURE CALLER ID
PICTURE ID'S CAN BE VIEWED INSTANTLY WHEN RECEIVING A CALL OR MESSAGE. GET A BETTER VIEW WHEN TAKING YOUR SELF-PORTRAIT WITH THE CAMERA'S SELF-SHOT FEATURE.



FLASH W/ LIGHT SENSOR
EVEN DURING NIGHTTIME OR LOW LIGHT CONDITIONS, YOU ARE SURE TO CAPTURE IMAGES IN TRUE COLOR, WITH A LIGHT SENSOR THAT AUTOMATICALLY SWITCHES THE FLASH ON OR OFF.

Specifications Dual Band GSM 900/1800MHz • Dimensions: 88x46x23 2mm • Weight: 90g
Standby time: 180 hrs. • Talk time: 160 mins. • MMS, GPRS, WAP 1.2.1

Metro Manila: GlobeTel - Ground Floor, Greenbelt 1, Makati City Tel: 886-0104 • Mega Cellular - 955-55 Buena Vista Bldg. M. Alarcón St. Makati Manila Tel: 886-0041 • ULS/BSO
Tel: 4 level Bldg. B Cyberzone SM Megamall Mandaluyong City Tel: 835-7548 • North Luzon DSL Electronics - Pinar Bldg. cor Rizal St. Dagupan City Tel: 951-122-1119 • South Luzon: Upland St. - Pinar Bldg. St. Legaspi City Tel: 831-4971 • South City: C-1, 3F Shoppers
Luna Pacific Mall Legaspi City Viewers - 30 A Merchant St. Lucena City Tel: (042) 710-621 • Visayas / Mindanao: Cebu: Vito - Everbest Extension Cagayan De Oro Tel: 861-057000 • Lila: Cebu - 118 Santa Rita Building - 118 Santa Rita Building - 118 Santa Rita Building - 118 Santa Rita Building
Vicente Roca Extension Cagayan De Oro Tel: 881-856-7999 • Jorja: 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv - 3F Cinema Luv

GEO

Mobile

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

bench/
OVERHAULED denim

in tune with bench/

i rock bench/

Music and simple joys live forever.

bench is forever

www.benchim.com